



Open Mind



Funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

50 inspiring examples of female social entrepreneurship



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GREEN LAUNDRY – A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE FOR ADULTS WITH MENTAL DISORDERS

Global Initiative in Psychiatry Foundation - Sofia, Bulgaria

www.gip-global.org

Contact: Ms. Valentina Hristakeva – director

The people with mental disabilities are among the most vulnerable groups in society. They have very limited social, training and employment opportunities. The stigma and the absence of work habits are the main obstacles for people with mental disorders to find and keep a job. Their work integration is a long process which requires sustainable efforts. The Center for mental care services works actively to support the social inclusion of people with mental illness and to give them opportunity to realize their potential. It is established by the Global Initiative on Psychiatry (GIP) in Sofia with the support of the Sofia Municipality, NGOs and other organizations.

In addition to the mental health services, GIP offers a vocational rehabilitation program, aimed to increase the quality of life of people with mental illness through participation in the labor market. It involves training in work habits and a supported employment in a social enterprise. The Job Search module teaches clients step-by-step to develop a realistic idea of their abilities and make a good judgement of eligible job profiles, to find suitable job offers and present to employers. The training introduces them to job application, delivering effective phone calls to set meetings with employers and performing on interviews. Furthermore, the mental health users are offered a supported working environment through a public laundry (Laundromat “Green”).

The laundry is a social enterprise, established in 2009 with the support of MATRA – KAP program. Since then more than 20 people with mental diseases have obtained working skills due to the training program and the job in the laundry. GIP also actively sensitizes employers about the myths, related to people with mental health problems.

The job skills training and the work in the laundry helps people with severe mental illness develop working skills, learn how to adapt to the work place and sustainably keep the job. The vocational rehabilitation program is a road to the social integration of people with mental disorders and helps them to live with dignity.





BULGARIAN FOOD BANK – saving food and helping people in need

Bulgaria

www.bgfoodbank.org

Contact person: Tsanka Milanova - Executive Director

The Bulgarian Food Bank is the first organization in the country, which collects, stores and distributes donated foods with limited expiry date, keeping all standards for food safety. BFB was launched in 2012, in a time and place where the concept of food banking was practically unheard of.

Current estimates put global food loss and waste between one-third and one-half of all food produced. In Bulgaria 1,58 million people live in poverty or suffer food shortage. In the same time, more than 670 000 tones of food are wasted annually. This amount can ensure enough food for all Bulgarians in need for a period of 15 months. BFB offers a solution for both food waste and directly impacts local communities.

BFB saves the redundant, but still good food, which otherwise would be lost. The food is sorted, it is fresh and in good quality. Most often it has lost its market price, as it is not in a perfect commercial condition, or for various logistic, technological or marketing reasons cannot be sold.

The food bank is the most effective model for saving food. Each day 1 tone of donated food is received, stored and distributed to thousands of people, who chronically suffer from malnutrition, temporary cannot afford food of good quality or are victims of disasters and crisis. To reach those most in need, the food bank relies on its cooperation network of civic organizations throughout the country, which work with socially disadvantaged families and individuals, orphanages, nursing and elderly homes.

All resources, necessary for the daily operations of the food bank are ensured as donations or on a symbolic price - donated warehouse, transport services, volunteer work, pro bono services. For each donated Bulgarian lev, BFB provides 10 portions of food for people most in need.

[Read more on the story of BFB.](#)



Source: bgfoodbank.org



HOPE SOAP – employment for young people from vulnerable groups

Bulgaria

www.fscibulgaria.org/en/social-entrepreneurship/soaps-workshop

Contact person: Teodora Koleva – executive director of FSCI

The Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion (FSCI) was founded in 2008 with the main goal of working for the social development and integration of underprivileged individuals, groups and communities in Bulgaria. Our work aims at breaking the vicious cycle of poverty and social isolation and restoring hope for a better future. We believe that everyone has the right of access to resources and opportunities that will help him to live and develop himself with dignity.

Our priority is the “House of Opportunity” Programme – a network of family type homes for young people leaving state care. They are offered training and support in finding and keeping a job; developing work habits; management of household and personal finances; adequate personal health care; social skills and adaptation for independent living.

The social enterprise called “HOPE SOAP” workshop started in March 2012 as part of the Programme. The process of soap making is very suitable for the young people who due to their specific characteristics are not able to be successful on the job market. This activity engages their time with productive activities, giving them sense of contribution, develops their coping skills and gives them opportunity for decent income.

The process involves a few simple operations suitable for the intellectual and physical abilities of the young people. The combination of creativity and routine sequence of operations helps to promote their psycho-social skills and work habits in a secure environment. The soap is made of ready to use base, flavors and colors that meet all regulatory requirements for quality and hygiene.

The Soap Workshops provide activity to disadvantaged young people and generate funds in support of the House of Opportunity Programme. The handmade soaps are ideal gifts for different occasions – company events or personal celebration.

Source: Hope Soap webpage





BREAD HOUSES NETWORK – inspiring throught bread-making

Bulgaria

website: www.breadhousesnetwork.org

Contact person: Nadezhda Savova - founder

The Bread Houses Network creates and unites centers for community-building, creativity, and social entrepreneurship with the mission is to inspire individuals and communities around the world to discover and develop their creative potential and cooperate through collective bread-making and accompanying art forms and sustainable ecological education.

The Bread Houses are physical locations of two kinds: community cultural centers (in Bulgaria and a few other countries) and social enterprises-bakeries that train and employ disadvantaged people while also serving as a social-cultural center (the first such bakery Bread House and serving as a model for our “social franchise” is located in Gabrovo, Bulgaria).

The Bread Houses Network’s Programs include various initiatives: Bread Therapy Program, tailored for small groups of people with various special needs; Bread Breaking Boundaries Life-long Learning Program; “Bread Building” team building program; “HedgeHope” Children’s Program; Ecological and Food Education Program; Global grain bank.

“Bakers without Borders” is an innovative, non-competitive educational game for all ages and different cultural settings, uniting people from all walks of life due to the unique power of bread as a universal symbol of sharing. With three sub-games, it can be used as a social business model and a guide for therapy and transformative life-long education. Percentage of all proceeds from the sales of the game are donated to the Bread Houses Network to support its social programs for free bread therapy sessions with people with disabilities and traumas in Bulgaria and other countries.

Source: breadhousesnetwork.org





EYES ON FOUR PAWS – training guide dogs to improve accessibility of blind people

Bulgaria

<http://e4p-bg.com/>

Contact person: Ms. Albena Alexieva - chairperson

There are 18 000 blind Bulgarian citizens and over 200 000 blind people on the Balkans.

Physical freedom is so natural, that you can appreciate it only when you lose it. Bulgaria needs the school which instructs guide dogs for people with disabilities.

“Eyes on four paws” is a foundation, which leads the school that prepares guide dogs for blind people – an already established unique project in Bulgaria - towards its full potential.

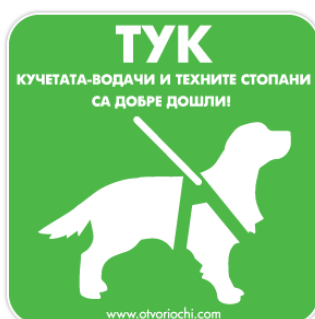
With their special skills and limitless love, available 24/7, the qualified guide dogs can save hundreds of blind people from the lonely prison of blindness.

The school for guide dogs of the “Eyes on four paws” foundation exists since 2001 and has trained 56 dogs who currently assist their visually impaired owners. Since 2013 “Eyes on four paws” is a member of the International Guide Dog Federation. The foundation has won a first price in a contest for best business plan in a national social entrepreneurship contest.

The foundation offers paid trainings of dogs and the incomes are used for their social mission. The ongoing public campaign helps attract donors and assistants, who take care of future guide dogs in their childhood years.

With time, the “Eyes on four paws” team recognized that just having a guide dog is not enough; as a matter of fact, hotels, banks, restaurants and other institutions often prevent disabled people accompanied by their dogs to access their spaces despite legal prescriptions. For this reason the team started the [Open Your Eyes campaign](#), aimed to incite companies and institutions towards cooperation.

Source - www.seeinginthedark.eu/about/eyes-on-four-paws/





SOCIAL TEA HOUSE – jobs for young people, raised in institutions

Varna, Bulgaria

<http://thesocialteahouse.bg/>

Contact persons: Maya Doneva, Stoyana Georgieva - founders

The Social Teahouse is a social enterprise, which offers an opportunity for young disadvantaged people, raised in institutions to practice social skills, start a job and build an independent life. The teahouse is an alternative space for various events. Everyone is welcome for a cup of tea, and much more!

The Social Teahouse is a social enterprise established in 2014 in Varna, Bulgaria. It aims to provide first job and mentorship for young people who grew in orphanages in Bulgaria and to offer them opportunity for an independent lifestyle.

In 2015 the social tea house opened doors officially as an alternative social space, where young people with limited access to the labour market can get their first jobs. Its multifunctional premises host various cultural events, seminars, exhibitions, business meetings, private parties for children. It offers mobile tea house, too.

“We want to create a space where young people, raised in orphanages can start their professional path and receive the mentorship and support, which they need to overcome the lack of good education, social skills and trust towards society. Our team has developed a 3-year mentorship program and we convinced the Municipality of Varna to provide us with a building in the hearth of the city so we can open.”

The idea is based on 3 main stages:

1. Mentoship program, which helps young people develop social and communication skills, knowledge about their civil rights and obligations, emotional intelligence.
2. Practical training in the tea house, where trainees obtain professional competences in customer service.
3. First job place, which helps young people have the chance to work and improve their quality of life.

Learn more about the [Social Tea House campaign](#).



Source: thesocialteahouse.bg



BLITAB – the world’s first tablet for blind people

Vienna, Austria

<http://blitab.com/>

Contact person: Kristina Tsvetanova - founder

BLITAB® is an award winning first Braille tablet device, empowering blind and visually impaired people.

The Vienna-based startup founded by three Bulgarians, is now bringing the tablet experience to blind and visually impaired people, solving the biggest social problems of more than 285 million people worldwide by giving in their hands digital access to information and education, which leads to employment generation and equality empowerment.

The idea came to Kristina Tsvetanova in the university, when a visually impaired colleague of her asked her to enter a website for him. Thus she realized how many people cannot take advantage of digital technologies.

The existing solutions so far can only display one line of Braille and are very expensive. The innovative technology used in Blitab allows to output images, maps, graphics, geometrical figures, etc., through tactile representation. The device is similar to an e-book, but uses liquid-based technology to create small, physical bubbles that rise and fall on the surface on demand to display the necessary text or graphics. The user can insert a USB stick or a memory card with various types of text documents, such as a Word .doc or PDF and Blitlab will convert and display them in Braille. It can do the same with web pages and digital maps. In addition, the user can write and edit pages via Braille Perkins keyboard.

Blitab is revolutionary as it can serve as an educational tool for blind people and help them increase their literacy. BLITAB was one of the 12 finalists at TechCrunch Hardware Battlefield on stage presenting the innovative technology and finalist of the Horizon2020-funded EU Prize for Women Innovators 2017, announced by the European Commission. “We proved that a piece of tech like BLITAB tablet for blind users can really change million lives.”





LISTEN UP APP - using technology to change the lives of hearing impaired students in Bulgaria

Bulgaria

<http://zaslushaise.bg/>

Contact person: Ashod Derandonyan, founder and chairman of the “Listen Up” Foundation

More than 120,000 people in Bulgaria have hearing impairment and the lack of resources often limits many of them from having an equal access to educational, career and other life opportunities.

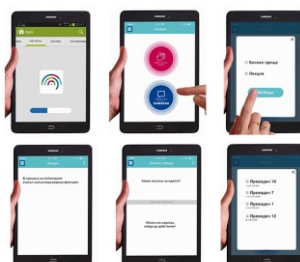
Samsung Bulgaria and the “Listen Up” Foundation, the first organization in Bulgaria to specifically support the hearing impaired, teamed up to develop an innovative speech-to-text transformation mobile application.

The tool was initially developed by top students from the Samsung Tech Institute in Bulgaria, who participated in a mentorship program allowing them to work with a team of professional developers. With exclusive support from Samsung Bulgaria, the mobile application was recognized by the “Listen Up” Foundation and launched in the country to aid 8,000 hearing impaired children and students to gain access to once-inaccessible educational resources.

The [new mobile application](#) is the first of its kind in Bulgaria. After piloting with the students in the specialized school for the hearing impaired in Sofia the service is expected to expand to cover more schools, universities and organizations. Moreover, education is not the only area the application is expected to influence. The Sofia Municipality is the first government institution in Bulgaria to offer specialized resources for the disabled, in order to allow them to easily communicate with City Hall representatives.

Over time, the service will assist the hearing impaired to be able to have equal access to all aspects of daily life, offering them a chance to become an active part of the community.

Source: <https://news.samsung.com/global/using-technology-to-change-the-lives-of-hearing-impaired-students-in-bulgaria>





MARIA'S WORLD – supported employment for intellectually challenged people

Sofia, Bulgaria

www.mariasworld.org

Contact person: Miryana Siriyski – program director

There are 46 000 people with intellectual difficulties in Bulgaria. Out of these approximately 8 000 people with intellectual difficulties live in the capital Sofia. People with intellectual difficulties in Bulgaria make up one of the most discriminated and isolated groups in society.

Our mission at Maria's World Foundation is to improve the quality of life of people with intellectual disabilities and the life of their families and help them achieve their full potential as individuals by providing access to high-quality services, developmental training and possibilities for gainful employment that are suited to their needs.

Maria's World Foundation aims to improve the quality of life of people with intellectual disabilities and their families. The organisation was established in February 2012 in Sofia as a public interest foundation by the family of Maria, a young woman with intellectual disabilities. We believe that each person has a valuable contribution to make to the community and deserves a chance to develop their full potential and live with hope for the future. People with disabilities must be free and equal to all others – free to make their own choices and equal in the possibilities available to them to pursue those choices.

In 2015 the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy awarded to Maria's World Foundation's Sheltered Café first prize in the competition 'Annual Awards for Social Innovation in Support of Social Economy'.

The Sheltered Café provides catering services in formats tailored to various events such as workshops, business breakfasts, lunches or dinners, coffee breaks, receptions or corporate parties. The food is prepared and served by clients of the Day Care Centre. Revenues from catering services are invested in vocational (culinary) training of people with intellectual difficulties and in supporting them to find employment in the open labour market.

Source: mariasworld.org





BETHEL – social enterprise for individuals, suffering from addiction

Bulgaria

www.betelbulgaria.org

Contact person: Diana Recha – manager

Bethel is an International Christian Association for assisting individuals suffering from any addiction. The purpose of Bethel is to reach the most deprived, marginalized addicts. The center in Bulgaria has been established in 2004. Till now it has helped more than 2800 addicted to restart their lives, build strong values and get back into society.

People who come to join the program so far have been pimps, drug dealers, ex-prisoners, etc. Being involved in a meaningful work process is vital for the long stay in the Bethel communities (at least 18 months). Along with individual and group therapy, the inhabitants maintain the house, grow vegetables and cook. After completing a training of repairing old donated furniture, they are involved in a work rehabilitation program. It helps them feel productive, develop work habits, professional skills, team work, mutual trust and respect, skills for their reintegration in the society.

The center is self-supported through offering services in various fields – transportation, construction, cleaning of offices, houses; moving; keeping a store for second-hand clothes and furniture; repairing of wooden furniture; gardening; etc.

Results like reduction of the number of the homeless and addicts, reduction of criminal activities, regaining the families of former addicts and returning of hundreds of useful and creative young people in the society, are really present after the work of the organization. In 2012 Bethel's business plan was awarded second price in a contest for social enterprises.

Source: ngobg.info



V



LIVAADI SOCIAL WOMEN COOPERATIVE "O SOFRAS"

Social women cooperative "O SOFRAS" – Livadi Elassonas, Larissa, Greece

<http://o-sofras.gr/>

Contact person: Mrs. Batzogianni Glykeria – President

The Livadi Social Women Cooperative, bearing the name "O Sofras", was founded in 2002 in order to highlight and build on the excellent quality of local products. The location of the Association is in the village Livadi of Olympus mountain, one of the most beautiful and crowded mountain villages of the region of Thessaly.

In the admittedly difficult task of founding the cooperative, the women-members were subsidized by OAED and the Ministry of Rural Development and Food. Precious advisers and assistants for their efforts stood the members of local government and all bodies of the mountainous municipality. The Livadi Social Women Cooperative from the beginning of its operation until today develops activities that cover the entire spectrum of production, processing and marketing of agricultural products. The Association maintains a restaurant named "The Sofras" in the village center, opposite of the Town Hall. The same area also houses the laboratory where all local dishes and other products are being prepared, such as pasta and pastries. The cooperative counts several participations in regional and nationwide competitions. The aim of the members by participating in these events is their continuous training and the promotion of the cooperative.

The already successful course of the cooperative was advanced by the repeated promotion through the media. Moreover, many women's associations from across the country have visited the cooperative as best female entrepreneurship practice.



Source: o-sofras.gr



DRYMOS SOCIAL WOMEN COOPERATIVE

Drymos social women cooperative – Drymos Elassonas, Larissa, Greece

<http://equalwomen.gr/drymos>

Contact person: Mrs. Arseni Katerina – President

The economic crisis that Greece is facing, apart from all the negative conditions that creates, may also result to innovative and productive entrepreneurial ideas that have their base in local cooperation.

One such idea was realized when the social women cooperative “Drymos” was founded. The main objectives of the social cooperative are:

- To revive and maintain old traditional recipes, arts and production methodologies
- To enhance the income of the women – members of the cooperative
- To maintain historical buildings and sites of Drymos area

Arts and recipes from the past for traditional food, confectionery and traditional clothes were revived from the women of Drymos area. The result was the production and commercialization of high quality traditional products with a big success in the local market as well as in the market of the biggest city of the prefecture (Larissa). For the production of all products, local raw materials are used which come together to a final product using the “unique” technics of the women – members of the social cooperative. The main products that the cooperative is selling are: traditional confectionery, traditional pies, traditional drinks, handmade clothes, dairy products, local herbs.

Source: equalwomen.gr/drymos





MUSES PIERION - traditional pasta, jams and pastry as “weapons” against the crisis

Muses Pierion – Katerini, Greece

<http://musespierion.gr/>

Contact person: Mrs. Mpessi Stamatia – Director

The procedure for the establishment of the social cooperative enterprises “Muses Pierion” began in the May of 2011. 20 unemployed women and 10 women volunteers decided to take action against the economic crisis using the “weapons” of cooperation, innovation and solidarity.

The constitutional purposes of the social cooperative “Muses Pierion” are:

- The promotion of social benefit through the production of goods or the provision of collective social services
- the utilization of profits for job growth and business expansion
- the promotion of solidarity economy
- the promotion of the concepts of cooperation and innovation

The main objectives of the social cooperative “Muses Pierion” are:

- Job creation for unemployed women in the production of home-made and traditional products
- The promotion and commercialization of local agricultural crops (kiwi, strawberry, cherry, etc.)
- The support of the local tourism
- The support of the local economy

The main products of the social cooperative “Muses Pierion” are traditional pasta, traditional jams and pastry.



Source: musespierion.gr



PORTARIA – reviving granny’s recipes

Women social cooperative enterprise of Portaria – Portaria Pilion, Greece

<http://portaria-pelion.gr/>

Contact person: Mrs. Fagetaki Eva – Director

The women social cooperative enterprise “Portaria” is based in the homonymous municipality of Magnesia and operates in the entire prefecture of Magnesia. Founded in March 1997 by women of the local community that they wanted to revive old recipes lying for years in the drawers of their homes, saving the culinary tradition of the place. At the same time, these women found a productive and innovative way to use their leisure time while contributing to the family income. Today, the cooperative has 35 members. On a daily basis women work in two laboratories of the cooperative.

The women – members of the cooperative currently are preparing a large number of traditional sweets, drinks, pasta and other products from natural ingredients of the region, without the use of preservatives. Moreover, the cooperative can undertake the catering of social and professional events in the area of Volos.



Source: portaria-pelion.gr



GLOSSIOTISA – the unique traditional food and customs of Skopelos

Women social cooperative “Glossiotisa” – Glossa Skopelos, Greece

<http://glossiotissa.gr/>

Contact person: Mrs. Papachristou Elissavet – President

In 1999, 24 women from the village Glossa of Skopelos island decided to establish a women social cooperative in order to produce and promote the local traditional dishes of Skopelos. Being committed to a high quality and authenticity of the products, the women – members of the cooperative still continue to offer to the local community as well as to the tourists that visit the island of Skopelos unique flavors, using exclusively local ingredients for their products.

Today, the cooperative is engaged, among other things, in the revival of local traditional customs through the organization and implementation of local events. Also, the cooperative is able to undertake the organization and the catering of social and professional events (conferences, weddings, baptisms, gatherings, folk festivals, etc.).

The main products of the cooperative are traditional sweets of Skopelos: hamalia and rozedes (sweets that are based on almonds), jar sweets and jams.



Source: glossiotissa.gr



WOMEN SOCIAL COOPERATIVE OF TRADITIONAL ART OF APERATHOS - promoting the local traditional art of weaving

Women social cooperative of Aperathos – Aperathos Naxos, Greece

<http://paradosiakaifanta.gr>

Contact person: Mrs. Agapitou Sofia – President

The women social cooperative of traditional art of Aperathos was founded in 1987 with the purpose to maintain and promote the local traditional art of weaving. During the summer time, the cooperative's products are available for the customers / tourists to choose and buy them, while winter is the productive period when all traditional clothes are designed and developed. Despite the economic crisis, the cooperative continues until today to offer products of high quality mainly because of the strong will of the women – member of the cooperative. Among other activities, the cooperative organizes many promotional events as well as training seminars on the unique weaving technic.

The cooperative produces and sells traditional handmade textile products committed to high quality and authentication standards. Also, the cooperative can provide various handmade artifacts, also for special occasions and events (weddings, baptisms, etc.).



Source: paradosiakaifanta.gr



ARCHANON FLAVORS

Archanon Food Women Social Cooperative

www.arhanongeuseis.gr

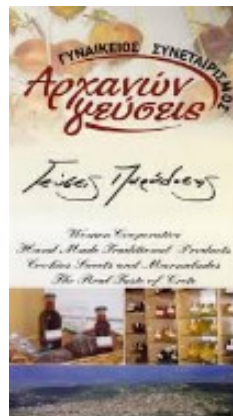
Contact person: Mrs. Maisi Spyridoula – Director

“Archanon Flavors” consists a women social enterprise offering traditional local products, exploiting the exquisite quality of the local raw materials as well as the efficient number of clients / tourists to the area. Local women founded the cooperative in order to promote their area and local habits and traditions, as well as enhance their income doing something they are really good at.

The products of the cooperative include: - SWEETS grape, orange, wild orange, fig, lemon, etc. - JAMS grape, orange, bitter orange, quince, apricot, etc. - BAKERY rusks with herbs, cookies, etc. - PIES cheese pies, - Kolyvata - TRADITIONAL RECIPES kouvaroli, buns, xerotigana, kalitsounia, petimezopita, grape jelly. - Trahanias (boiled wheat) dry and fresh. The women's cooperative "Archanes Flavors" other than the production of these products is also active in sale and distribution of products of other cooperatives, like Arhanes wine, raki, barley rusks.

For all products of the cooperative are used purely raw materials and extra virgin olive oil.

The women's cooperative "Archanon Flavors" can organize any kind of social events (weddings, baptisms, memorial, name day and any other celebrations). Specifically, for the memorial, the cooperative takes full organization and service. The women's cooperative can offer products, biscuits and cakes, at conferences, exhibitions and other events. The women's cooperative offers as well lessons in traditional cooking and baking.



Source: arhanongeuseis.gr



FILOMILA

Social Women Cooperative of Davleia – Davleia, Greece

<http://filomila-davleia.blogspot.gr/>

Contact person: Director

The cooperative was founded in 2007 by a small group of women who decided to join their experience and commercialize the local traditional products. The name of the cooperative, “FILOMILA” is borrowed by Pandiona’ daughter who is the main character of a local ancient myth.

The cooperative also runs a local coffee store where all its products are available.

The main products of the cooperative are traditional sweets, traditional local pies and traditional pastry and bakery products. Also, the cooperative can undertake the catering of social and professional events.



Source: filomila-davleia.blogspot.gr



YIAM - handmade in-house food products

Yiam – Agia, Larissa, Greece

<http://yiam.gr/>

Contact person: Mrs. Avra Panousopoulou – Director

Yiam is a social enterprise located in a rural city near Larissa selling handmade in-house food products like jams, sauces, preserves and pickles through the e-shop that the owner manages. The enterprise exploits the unique and of high quality local fruits in order to create and sell exquisite products, having so far its own “loyal” clientele.

The owner of Yiam declares that she is a “graduate mom and housewife”, “there is no better school for business management than the one when bringing up children. This helps you develop very useful communication skills, develop and grow your emotional intelligence. From the household, also one can learn a great deal. Home economics is essential not only at home but also in an enterprise. A good housewife is a perfect entrepreneur! ” I started 13 years ago, by cooking what we already did at home for the family and building upon our agricultural products. “I would never sell something that I would not eat.”

“The procedure is as follows: first is to select the best raw material in cooperation with local producers, after a series of tests, and when found the desired flavor followed by costing, production and promotion at appropriate points.



Source: yiam.gr



COOCOO CREATIONS - art for all

CooCoo Creations – Athens, Greece

www.cooococo creations.gr

Contact person: Mrs. Karousou Lamprini – Manager

CooCoo Creations is a social enterprise promoting art, artistic creations and the productive occupation of people interested in art. The main fields that the enterprise is engaged in are pottery and jewelry.

The main motto of the enterprise is: “Art for All!”

The owner’s wish and aim is to provide access to art for all people interested regardless of age and talent, either as observers and admirers, either as creators. And this because:

- creation and beauty are human needs
- creation and beauty offer satisfaction, relaxation, peace, healing, joy.

The main two principles of the social enterprise are:

- Encourage the creation using clay, offering personalized training according to the needs of each person, individually or within a group.
- Create and sell elegant objects, ceramics and handmade jewelry at reasonable cost.





DALBA – a cooperative brewery offering opportunity to people with intellectual disability

Social Cooperative DALBA – Puck, Poland

www.browarspoldzielczy.com

Contact person: Agnieszka Dejna

In June 2014 Puck Community, Krokowa Community and the Association for the Mentally Handicapped in Puck established the Social Cooperative "DALBA". It is a multi-sector social enterprise. Employees are recruited from occupational therapy workshops. They work as a cleaning staff or gardeners for example.

Later in 2015 the DALBA Social Cooperative set up Browar Spółdzielczy (Cooperative Brewery). Most of cooperative members are people with disabilities, who do not have many chances on the labour market. Thanks to their determination and passion Cooperative Brewery products are more than just a beer - it is an opportunity for excluded people to return to economic and social activity. It is simply a beer which means more.

Cooperative Brewery Puck is the first cooperative brewery in Poland and the sixth of this type in the world, which employs people with intellectual disability. This initiative breaks the stereotypical approach to the people with this type of dysfunction, proving that these people are able to rightfully integrate in the society.



Source: browarspoldzielczy.com



KUCHNIA KONFLIKTU – enhancing social dialogue through gastronomy

Kuchnia Konfliktu – Warsaw, Poland

www.facebook.com/kuchniakonfliktu

Contact person: Paulina Milewska

How to combine gastronomy with social activity? Is it possible to tell, through the meal, stories of people who came to Warsaw because of fleeing from the war?

The answer is 'yes' what the new initiative in Warsaw – Kuchnia Konfliktu (Conflict Kitchen) shows. Kuchnia Konfliktu is both cultural meeting point and social dialogue place. The aim of the project is to intervene in the public space through cooking. In Kuchnia Konfliktu residents can taste food and learn culture of conflicted countries and establish direct interactions with refugees and migrants that setting up the project.

Kuchnia Konfliktu is not just a place where you can eat. It is primarily a social enterprise - the place where foreigners get support and experience social inclusion. The periodically changing menu includes dishes from almost all parts of the world.

There are new initiatives set. One of them is a new educational and cultural program prepared by an international team. There are special attachments to each ordered meal. Customers get a description of personal history of migrants, information on the political situation in their native country or interesting facts related to culture, art and social life. This is the strong contribution to social inclusion of the people from these places.



Source: www.facebook.com/kuchniakonfliktu/



DINKSY– design studio of women returners

Dinsky – Cieszyn, Poland

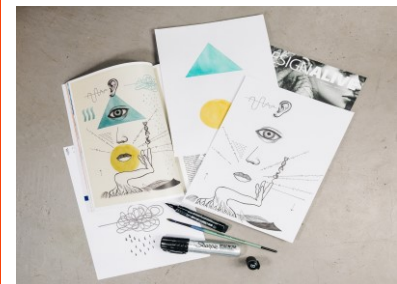
www.dinsky.com.pl

Contact person: Urszula Szwed

Graphics and Design Studio Dinsky is a venture which was set up in 2013 by Social Cooperative “Parostatek”. It was established by the team of young people who have abilities to create visual identification of brands and products, illustrations, infographics and storyboards.

They specialize in visualizing of data, processes and instructions. Dinsky offers also services of visual thinking and sketchnoting during the conferences, presentations and trainings. Main principle of Dinsky is to listen to the customers’ needs. They just link their talents with business needs and achieve common goals.

The core of the team are young women from small city, mostly returning to the labor market after maternity leave. This social cooperative helps them to combine professional work with childcare. It is possible thanks to flexible working hours, part time job or remote working.



Source: dinsky.com.pl



OWOCNI Social Enterprise – a fresh juice for a healthy day

Owocni, Przedsiębiorstwo społeczne, Głowno, Poland

www.owocni.org

Contact: Magdalena Włodarczyk

A social enterprise focuses on producing fresh juices and organizing events with juice bar. They offer juices for individual orders, business and for mass sell. Thanks to their presence during different events and conferences people have opportunity to learn about profits of drinking fresh juices and discover new flavors. They use local products and support local farmers.

Moreover Owocni promote health life style during workshops addressed both to children and adults. Participants learn principles of cooking raw food and principles of preparing healthy products. They serve delicious, healthy, raw food based on simple recipes, fresh juices from fruits and vegetables and cocktails.

They promote also social enterprises in local community. The described enterprise organizes visits to enterprises and social start-ups in Lodz, Warsaw and Italy for people who are interested in this kind of business models. They teach about cooperation and solidarity in economics.



Source: owocni.org



SEMAFOR Foundation –specialized therapeutic support to children and adolescents with developmental disorders

Fundacja Centrum Wspierania Rozwoju „SEMAFOR”, Sieradz, Poland

<http://fundacjasemafor.pl/>

Contact: Katarzyna Jaryszek

Centrum Wspierania Rozwoju SEMAFOR Foundation is a young organization, which was established in Sieradz, to bring aid to children and adolescents with pervasive developmental disorders, emotional behavioral disorders and other development irregularities. The main goal of the organization is to facilitate access to professional diagnosis and specialized therapeutic support.

The team consists of qualified and experienced therapists, full of optimism people, with passion and energy for action. Activities of the foundation are divided into two main elements:

- Non-public Psychological-Pedagogical Clinic
- Non-public Preschool Point for children with developmental disorders, in particular children with autism require individualized approach and a comprehensive impact on the various spheres of development.

SEMAFOR runs diagnostic and many services for children in-aid. Exemplary services can cover: intellectual potential and level of cognitive function (memory, attention, perception, assessment of psychomotor development of the child or diagnostics of problems with sensory integration. Additionally parents can find there many different workshops and therapies that support their children’s development.



Source: fundacjasemafor.pl



DOM NA ZDROWIU – a private day care center and occupational therapy for elderly people suffering dementia and memory problems

Social Cooperative Dom na Zdrowiu, Łódź, Poland

<http://domnazdrowiu.pl/>

Contact: Weronika Pliszka

Social Cooperative Dom na Zdrowiu runs the Private Day Care Center and Occupational Therapy for the Elderly as its main activity. It was established to help elderly people to improve their quality of life. The Center is mainly addressed to elderly people who suffer memory problems due to e.g. teams dementia (including Alzheimer's disease), post-stroke conditions and depression.

Seniors are supported by the professional team. They have comprehensive care, with particular emphasis on therapeutic activities to improve memory and affecting the maintenance of good mental health and to organise cultural and creative events allowing the expression of feelings. Participants have also the care of a psychologist.

Seniors may stay at the Centre from Monday to Friday from 7.30 to 17.00. They can decide if they wish to stay for the whole month or during selected days of the week. There is the possibility to organize the transport for seniors from and to their homes.

Source: domnazdrowiu.pl





FOOD FOR GOOD – empowering young people from orphanages through production of gingerbread

Fundacja Robinson Crusoe, Warsaw, Poland

<http://www.fundacjarobinson.org.pl>

Contact: Magdalena Kępk

Robinson Crusoe Foundation deals with empowerment and comprehensive support of young people from orphanages, foster families and family's orphanages at risk of social exclusion. For over 15 years, the Foundation has developed practical empowerment programs that support youngsters to exist in the local community in a constructive way and run its own activity to counteract stigma. The organization cooperates with local communities to integrate them with participants.

Food For Good is a social enterprise co-created by Robinson Crusoe Foundation. In the enterprise young people at risk of exclusion are engaged in a process of production and sale of gingerbread. Thanks to this activity they have the opportunity to gain first professional experience that will help them to find themselves on a labour market.

Unique character of gingerbread lies in the combination of two elements - sweet for those who like mild flavors and spicy for those who prefer something sharper. They are connected together in such a way that it can be easily broken and given to the second person. Each cake is kneaded by hand. Gingerbread is packed in a nice cardboard box, which is a picture story, explaining how clients contribute to the realization of social goals.



Source: Gallery from FB



MAMO PRACUJ FOUNDATION – supporting mothers who want to work

Mamo Pracuj Foundation, Cracow, Poland

<http://mamopracuj.pl/>

Contact: Joanna Gotfryd

The Internet Portal Mamo pracuj (Mummy work, if you want) is an initiative of the Mamo pracuj Foundation. It was the response on the problem of work-life balance among young mothers who have less job opportunities after a child birth. Moreover the idea of the portal was based on own experiences of the foundress. Portal is nationwide recognized and has more than 100 thousands unique users monthly.

Project is addressed to women who would like to return on a labour market or to develop their competences in entrepreneurship. It aims at making social change.

The foundation particularly focuses on:

- joining workers with mom-friendly employers (offers on the page),
- promotion of businesses (moms for moms),
- experts articles,
- sharing with interesting ideas for own business,
- motivation to action,
- writing about law regulations for parents,
- creating a national community of active moms.



Source: mamopracuj.pl



SERFENTA Association – promoting unique hand-made basketry products

Stowarzyszenie Serfenta, Cieszyn, Poland

<http://serfenta.pl/pl/kontakt.html>

Contact: Paulina Adamska

The Serfenta Association is „a leading institution in the field of basketry studies. Its portfolio includes such titles as ‘Eco-Active’ and ‘Folk Oscar’ for the project ‘On the basketry trail of Poland’, as well as a number of publications in the subject of handicraft work and thousands of hours of field studies.” The motto of the organization is “Association exists so that basketry could live”.

Association’s main goal is to inspire people to handmade work. It is looking for innovative approach to design and to cooperation artists from over the world. The idea is to improve the economic situation of manufacturers of basketry. Organization aims at responsible tourism and fair trade stuff offered to foreign customers. Exceptional and unique products offered by Serfenta are increasingly popular among customers, both from Poland and abroad.



Source: serfenta.pl



Pracownia Sitodruku BLOT – more than a textile tradition

Social cooperative „Pracownia Sitodruku”, Łódź, Poland

www.blotpracownia.pl

Contact: Agnieszka Natasza Splewińska

BLOT is a social cooperative established by young people who were interested in design and printing. It was set in the end of 2012. It is strongly oriented on creating new patterns, structures and graphic design. The organization can assist their customers in the whole creation process from the concept stage, through design to production. It is equipped in own machines and has own laboratory and design studio.

Headquarters is located in the center of Poland, in Lodz. Lodz textile is not only a tradition, but above all, there is a great access to fabric manufacturers and knitted fabrics.



Source: blotpracownia.pl



BELLA KINESIS - sportswear brand empowering women internationally

Social enterprise – London, UK

<https://bellakinesis.com/>

Contact persons: Roshni Assomull and Shaleena Chanrai (founders)

Roshni Assomull: roshni@bellakinesis.com,

Shaleena Chanrai: shaleena@bellakinesis.com

Bella Kinesis is a sportswear brand developed by friends Roshni Assomull and Shaleena Chanrai, founded on the desire to support and empower women internationally. The idea behind their business is to create a chain reaction they call “strength for strength”, with proceeds from each item of sportswear sold helping to fund business education for a woman in rural India to support them starting a business of their own.



Made in Britain



The entire Bella Kinesis collection is manufactured locally at our Yorkshire based factory. Transparency in the garment industry is something our team feels strongly about so we wanted to put some faces to our clothing. Working with local manufacturers means that we know exactly how our garments are made and who makes them.



Source: bellakinesis.com



TOUCAN BOX - creative projects for parents with young children

Social enterprise – London, UK

www.toucanbox.com

Contact person: Virginie Charles-Dear - founder

info@toucanbox.com

ToucanBox is a personalised arts and crafts subscription service which delivers creative projects for parents with young children. As a mother with young children herself, Virginie Charles-Dear came up with the idea of creating a selection of activities designed to keep children entertained. After she developed a prototype and got her daughter's seal of approval, toucanBox was launched in 2012.

Hi! I'm Virginie, CEO & founder of toucanBox. Like a lot of parents, I have relentlessly inquisitive children, two daughters and a son of preschool age. Every parenting book, blog and pamphlet I read told me how important imaginative play was to these early years in my children's development. But what they didn't tell me was where to go for creative materials when I was housebound with a newborn, and my four-year-old, Hannah, was looking up at me, waiting to start the latest art project she'd seen on TV. You know the ones that seem to think 24 ice lolly sticks are just laying around the house like old batteries?

I thought to myself how wonderful (and wonderfully convenient) it would be if I could get a tailor-made selection of materials and activities delivered to my door. A regular treasure trove of fun and educational themes to keep the kids entertained in a productive way. So, the next day, I went out and made a mockup to take home to Hannah. When she eagerly requested a second box as soon as she'd finished the first, I knew it had passed the customer test. toucanBoxes have developed a lot since that first shop-bought prototype. What started as a handy solution to a common problem has now become a new accessible way to engage kids in play, one we hope you and your little ones will continue to get excited by with each and every delivery!





GYM BITES - making healthily eating on the go as convenient as possible

Social enterprise – London, UK

website: <http://www.gymbites.co.uk/>

Contact person: Alexis Oladipo

[Gym Bites](#) aspires to make healthily eating on the go as convenient as possible. Meals are packaged in jars using only fresh ingredients. Any leftover meals are donated to a homeless shelter at the end of each day. Twenty-nine-year-old founder Alexis Oladipo got started with a 3,000 grant from the Prince's Trust charity and got her big break when Gym Bites was sold at Selfridges in London.



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BLAZE - innovative technology ensuring safety for urban cyclists

Social enterprise – London, UK

website: <https://blaze.cc/?lcur=UK>

Contact person: Emily Brooke - founder

[Blaze](#) uses innovative technology to create products which directly tackle the specific issues surrounding safety for urban cyclists. Their flagship product, the Laserlight, uses forward projection technology to beam a laser image out of blind spots, junctions, and situations where the cyclist is otherwise unseen.

The company was founded by Emily Brooke who researched and developed the idea while studying Product Design at university. Blaze was established in 2012 and by 2015 proudly announced that their Laserlights would be fitted in 11,500 Santander cycles as part of the London Cycle Hire Scheme. Following this success, the brand have just announced a partnership in 2017 with Citi Bike in New York, which will see the lights installed on 250 bikes across the city





4ECO - Renewable Energy

Social enterprise – Lincolnshire, UK
 Contact person: Jodi Huggett (founder)

In a little over two years, Lincolnshire entrepreneur Jodi Huggett, along with her two co-founders, has built a green energy business which generates sales in excess of over £3m.

Her start-up venture, 4eco, is the creator of the ImmerSUN device which retains self-generated energy within a home or business by diverting to an immersion heater, space heaters and underfloor heating – a process which has saved over 20,000 customers hundreds of pounds on their energy bills. Having started the business while fighting a rare form of cancer, Huggett’s entrepreneurial endeavour is undoubtable and she has helped scale the company with no external investment.

In [interviews](#), Huggett has discussed how starting a business “turned her life around from living on state benefits” and her early start-up achievements were recognised back in 2014 when she was granted the illustrious Women in Business Award at that year’s Startups Awards.



BUSINESS AWARDS 2015 Enter NOW for this year's prestigious awards. Follow the yellow brick road to pages 4&5

Solar solution powers on as global sales heat up

by Dave Laister
 Business Editor

SUN-drenched southern hemisphere markets are being sought out as a business that brought high-tech renewable energy manufacturing to a small rural community completes a £500,000 expansion to meet demand.

Award-winning 4eco is the technology innovator behind the ImmerSun device, a system that works hand in glove with solar systems to harness power generated and retain it within a home.

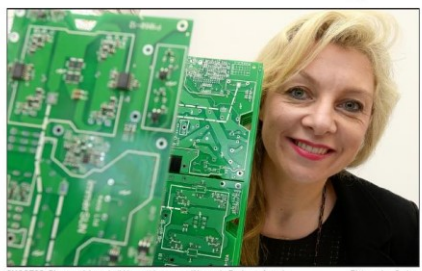
Launched two years ago, more than 20,000 units have been produced from the Bishbrook base, where it has gone from retrofitting a single unit to owning the entire site. It is now developing a green business that practices what it preaches with an array of products helping to produce 100W for the Church View Business Centre it occupies.

The past year has seen turnover increase from £60,000 to £2.1 million as the micro-generation industry has scaled up, aided by government support in the form of the feed-in tariff, where people are rewarded for self-generation and grid support.

Jodi Huggett, business development director, recently took home the Women in Business Award at The StartUps, a national awards ceremony celebrating the successes of Britain's most inspiring new companies.

Previous winners include online independent retail hub Notionbehighstreet.com and infant food brand Ella's Kitchen.

Launched out of a solar installation business, 4eco now



SUCCESS: Director of 4eco Jodi Huggett has won a Women in Business Award. Picture: Jon Corbett

has a team of 24, with further recruitment underway to enhance production management as it enters new markets.

"We are only going to get bigger," Mrs Huggett said, as the company looks to a global market.

"People respond to the conditions so we wanted to ensure we had a winter and summer market. We are now working with people in Europe, Australia and other southern hemisphere countries such as New Zealand - the device is going global."

It began when Lee Sutton, fellow director and company founder, was in the office one night for a meeting and he said there was something missing - a system with the ability to self-manage the

solar panels' generation. Rather than pushing everything back to the National Grid, it redirects to where it is required in the home, with water immersion, and under floor heating the most common.

"We researched the market to see if there were any other micro-generation self-storage products out there, and we identified one product, but it was £2,000," said Mrs Huggett. "That wasn't commercially viable, to add to an already costly exercise in solar installation," she said.

"We decided there was a gap in the market for a viable product that would help the home owner as much as possible, and it had to be brought to market for under £500.

"The challenge was to manufacture the device that then met the European standards and we brought out ImmerSun."

A recent purchase is a £100,000 new pick and place machine that populates the circuit boards.

"We are always out and about looking for new partners and operators in new countries," she said. "When the feed-in tariff comes down, an opportunity opens."

And there is more to follow. "There is a road map of what products are to come out," Mrs Huggett said. "Devices that are out already can have new devices connected to them."

Continued on page two

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Anglers hooked on town's bait

GIRMSBY'S long-established bait food supplier, Health's, is casting out with a new product. Having served the needs of bait manufacturers for nearly 45 years, supplying key ingredients to sell, the European business is bringing its own brand to market.

With an international presence, Health's has created jobs, and has worked with UK Trade and Investment on enquiries.

Full story on the new element, see pages 14.

Door opens on engineer roles

RAPID expansion following a significant Regional Growth Fund grant for Scunthorpe-based Bradbury Group has seen an engineering academy created to ensure skills provision.

The steel door manufacturer, founded and chaired by Tim Strasson, secured a £207,000 grant as it transformed its footprint in the town, building on strong demand from the domestic, commercial and industrial sectors.

More than 500 jobs are now added a further 77 people to the team.

Full story on page 16.

Photo credit: Business Telegraph



REBEL KITCHEN - transforming the UK's approach to food, health and sustainability

Social enterprise – London, UK

website: <http://rebel-kitchen.com/>

Contact person: Tamara Arbib (founder)

Tamara Arbib wants to transform the UK's approach to food, health and sustainability. Having previously founded The A Team Foundation charity in 2010 to educate people to eat healthier, Arbib is now driving her healthy food mission home through her start-up Rebel Kitchen. Launched with her husband in 2014, Rebel Kitchen offers a range of vegan "mylk" drinks made from a base of ethically sourced coconut mixed with water.

The drinks range, also void of additives, preservatives, and refined sugars, has secured listings with Waitrose, Tesco, and many other stores, and its appeal has also translated overseas. You can now find Rebel Kitchen in 20 global territories and it is continuing to expand distribution in the US; recently gaining listings in the Wholefoods Market Northern California region. Arguably more impressive; Arbib has achieved all this in the space of two and a half years while raising four children under the age of 10.

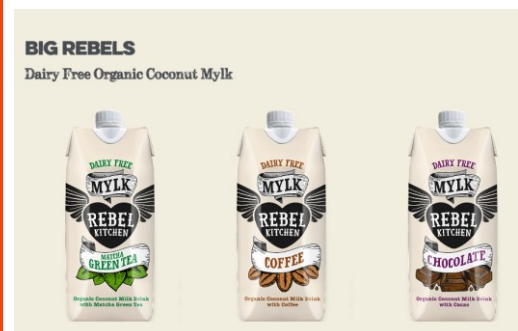


Photo credit: <http://rebel-kitchen.com>



THREE SISTERS CARE - providing care at home to elderly and disabled people

UK | Started in 2012

www.threesisterscare.co.uk

Contact person: Jobeda Ali – director

email: jobeda@threesisterscare.co.uk

In January 2012, she co-founded Three Sisters Care, a care company providing care at home to elderly and disabled people, with three share-holding directors; herself and her two sisters; healthcare worker and community activist Rahena Begum, and child minder Jaida Begum. The homecare agency works across London and the suburbs, mainly with older people, but also with young adults with disabilities. In 2014, it won the Social Enterprise of the Year Award at the Precious Awards in recognition of its social business practices.

In January 2016 Ali pulled together a consortium from around the UK and won a government contract to build robots for the care sector in a high profile and controversial project called CHIRON. Alongside Three Sisters Care, the other consortium partners are [Shadow Robot Company](#), [Bristol Robotics Lab](#) at the [University of the West of England](#), Designability, Telemetry Associates and SH&BA. Ali has been appearing in various media and events clarifying the role of robots in the care of old people.

<https://www.theguardian.com/social-enterprise-network/2012/feb/14/start-up-story-jobeda-sisters-care>



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"I would like to thank you all for all of your efforts to making Alice's care more comfortable and manageable, especially for us as we live too far away to be of more support. I am extremely grateful to you for organising the sleeping arrangement for the overnight carers (...) I really can't thank you and all the staff of Three Sisters Care enough for all the help that you have given Alice and myself over the last few months, for which I will be forever grateful. I am attempting to write something thanking your company for their help, but cannot seem to put into words the full praise you all deserve." Terry McSweeney, September 2016





ABIANDA - one to one support for gang affected young women

UK | Started in 2011

<http://abianda.com/>

Contact person: Abi Billingham – director

email: hello@abianda.com

Abianda was set up to address the gap in services for gang-affected young women and to change the way services are delivered to them, so we can more effectively respond to their needs. We do this through our unique model of practice – we address the barriers that stop young women seeking help & work alongside them to design & deliver our services.

Guiding principles are:

- That people affected by a problem are best placed to find the solutions
- To value young women as experts on their own lives
- To shift traditional power hierarchies in service delivery in order to enable young women’s participation in solution building, and support young women to have their voices heard in order that they can influence the design and delivery of services
- A fundamental belief in young women’s innate resources, competence and resilience

See also Abi’s story here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/theobserver/2016/jul/10/abianda-new-radicals-2016-young-women-gangs>

Social enterprises
New radicals 2016

Abianda: 'You're the expert on your life'


Abi Billingham's social enterprise gives a voice to marginalised young women who have been exploited by gangs

- [The story behind the 2016 New Radicals](#)
- [The 2016 New Radicals in full](#)

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6 2



Katie Forster
[@katieforster](#)

Sunday 10 July 2016 07:00 BST



Abi Billingham, of Abianda, on the Andover estate in Holloway, north London. Photograph: Antonio Olmos for the Observer



ENGAGE AND CREATE - a social enterprise dedicated to transforming quality of life for people living with dementia and those that care for them.

UK | Started in 2013

Director and Founder: Rachel Mortimer

rachel@engageandcreate.com

<http://www.engageandcreate.com/>

Mission: Improve quality of life for people with dementia and those that care for them.

Engage & Create is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving quality of life for people with dementia and those that care for them.

We believe everyone has the right to inspiring conversation where they are heard and understood. Involvement in our structured art appreciation discussions, Ignite Sessions, offers a safe space for people to express their views and beliefs enabling participation in a meaningful, intellectual activity and opportunity for personal growth.

Ignite Sessions are a forum for exploration and exchange of ideas without relying on short-term memory. It encourages an opportunity to share personal experiences and access long-term memories that otherwise may not be stimulated. Participants benefit from a new insight into others' ideas and interests, and also a means to make connections between individual experience and the world at large.

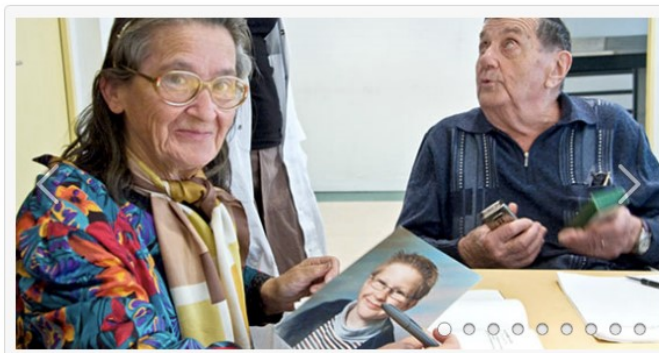
Delivered through the Montessori approach focusing on individual's strengths and abilities, this positive approach to dementia care is a source of creativity and comfort to people with dementia and caregivers alike. As well as a great learning experience, these sessions are a fun, friendly and creative way to have social interaction and connect to peers and can be delivered at every stage of dementia.



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We are a social enterprise dedicated to transforming quality of life for people living with dementia and those that care for them.

If you would like to find out more about what we do drop us a line by clicking the button below

CONTACT US

Image © Cathy Greenblat, Love, Loss and Laughter

Photo credit: engageandcreate.com



Funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



ACCESS2BOOKS - book printing for visually impaired

UK | Started in 2013

www.access2books.org

Contact person: Eileen Finch – director

info@access2books.org

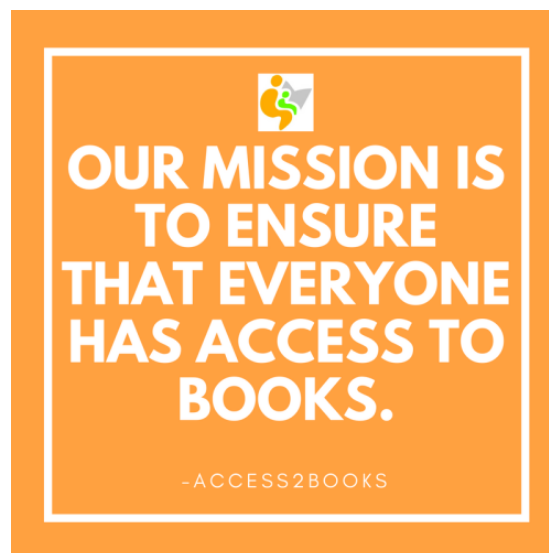
Mission: Book printing for visually impaired

Access2Books is a charity whose mission it is to ensure that everyone has access to books. That means that regardless of reading ability or visual capacity, everyone can have and hold a picture book in their hands. Whether you're a child learning to read and to love books or a parent or grandparent wanting to share your love of books and the joys of reading with a child, access matters.

They take the most popular children's books in the UK and turn them into accessible books for people who have print disabilities: that may come in the form of being visually impaired, blind or even dyslexic.

Their books come in a dual format, that is, in giant print [75 point] with Braille. Our books are illustrated with specially adapted pictures accompanied by picture descriptions. All books are handmade. Design enables adults and children to read together, helping to form the educational and social relationships that are vital to children's early years' learning of language, their growth in confidence and their social interaction skills.

They work with local libraries, SEN teachers and schools as well as mainstream schools, booksellers, individuals and families.



Credit: access2books.org



BUSINESS MOM – a business school for entrepreneurs single mothers

Happy Moms–Braşov, Romania

www.happymoms.ro

Contact: Mrs. Lupşa-Tătaru Dana – president

There is a trend for at least 5 years of women who become mothers and are willing to become “stay at home” mothers and manage their own businesses, even though the incomes are not the same, in order for them to have more time with their child. Thus the program is aimed to help those mothers, and especially the single ones, with training, mentorship, motivation and marketing of their new businesses. They also have the opportunity to advertise their new businesses through Business Mom Club - a female entrepreneurs’ business network.

The program is unfurled during a year, it starts with a contest of business idea and the jury consists of businesswomen and professors from Transilvania University of Brasov. After graduating the program, the new businesses are encouraged to become sponsors for the next edition of the program and to become mentors for the next generation of moms becoming entrepreneurs.

The single moms become a cohesive group, also a support group for the problems that they have regarding their personal life, sharing emotions, feelings and becoming eventually friends, finding ideas to improve their businesses, and courage to overcome the fear of failure.

The chance that they have to build a new professional life and new relationships with other women having the same personal and professional problems, is helping also the development of local communities and local economy.

By 2017, there are 10 businesses started and having every year more clients, more profit, in only 2 years.





MAMAPAN – social economy bakery for single moms

MamaPan – Bucharest, Romania

www.mamapan.ro

Contact: Irina Sorescu – Manager

MamaPan Bakery is a social economy project of CPE – Center for Partnership and Equality, an NGO supporting women's rights and gender equality.

MamaPan Bakery was developed in 2014 based on CPE's objective of supporting one of the target groups it serves, according to its' mission – single mothers and mothers with more than 2 children who face social exclusion, difficulties in employment and lack of financial resources. Therefore, the project beneficiaries are single mothers and mothers with more than 2 children. Besides the need to provide support to single mothers, we intended to create traditional and healthy bread and pastry with the aim to responsibly offer high-quality products to the community.

The Bakery produces various assortments of bread (with white and whole flour, wheat flour and rye flour, gluten free bread, with different types of seeds) and also other products such as sweet walnut bread and dried fruits sweet bread named „cozonac” in Romanian, crackers, horn-shaped cookies, pies. We use sourdough instead of yeast and no preservatives and additives. The bread is naturally leavened, manually shaped and oven-baked.

During the project 14 single mothers benefited, free of charge, from a 10-weeks certified professional training to become bakers, that finished with an exam. 7 mothers are employed in the bakery (6 as bakers and 1 as driving-distributor). The employed mothers also received free training through special workshops on making sourdough bread.

MamaPan Bakery also has a donation program, many of its products being donated to families and children in need. The campaign „Pâinea este dar. Daruieste pâine sănătoasă” (“The bread is a gift. Give healthy bread”) is a CSR project that we are implementing together with private companies.



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AMBASADA - a social enterprise and a cultural entrepreneurship

Asociatia CASA PLAI – AMBASADA – Timisoara, Romania

www.plai.ro/ambasada

Contact person: Andreea Iager-Tako – SES Manager

AMBASADA is a brand under the CASA PLAI Association, a social enterprise developed after 9 years of PLAI Festival experience, which unites and generates projects, sustainable growth and powerful representation for the NGO and the creative sector, while employing young adults coming from the foster system or with disadvantaged backgrounds and people with disabilities.

AMBASADA - the new cultural and concept space that brings together not only the non-profit community, but the creative one as well, in a strive to generate new projects and impact solutions while drinking a fair trade coffee. The cultural and resource center is equally interesting for the corporate sector as an alternative space for learning and inspiring employees, while connecting to the local community and solving issues important to it, generating a much needed dialogue. Acting as a bistro/cafe/meeting room/conference and event room, AMBASADA acts as an independent cultural center that offers **free** infrastructure for training, inspiring sessions, concerts and live-public music rehearsals, movies' night, artistic installations and so much more, connects independent creatives and builds a strong creative community.

We envisioned a strong, creative, active community that can implement and generate positive impact in their society while connecting with the international communities. AMBASADA's mission is to coagulate and strengthen the active local community, through art, cultural and non-profit actions in order to make a direct change, generate legislative and local policies that support and building capacity for its sustainability. The values that drive AMBASADA are based in the responsible action of each individual, it's valuable unique perspective that should be cherished in a true diverse community, the power of an active and present community and none the less, the creative and social importance of culture in our lives.

AMBASADA is the first cultural re-conversion of an industrial site, moreover, a social enterprise, a cultural hub and the first in Romania to be part of the THE network.





DELIVER LOVE - handwritten Letters & Calligraphic Social Projects

Social enterprise – Bucharest, Romania,

www.LivrezDragoste.ro

Contact person: Loredana Munteanu- Co founder & Calligrapher

We are two young ladies who in March 2014 officially launched this concept, of writing and delivering calligraphic letters like they used to do in the good old days!

With an assumed “naiveté”, ready for challenges and full of confidence, we recreated the most elegant form of communication. In times overwhelmed by virtual messages, sending a letter becomes the gesture that makes the difference, opens new dialogues and emotionally touches everyone. Even more, it builds up memories.

At present, our project is in continual expansion, due to our long-term strategy, dedicated also to the large public with the intent to bring value in different communities. We have started by offering a motivation letter to all people that come to donate blood at the “Blood Transfusion Center” and continuing by decorating all the public transportation from Bucharest and from other big cities like Cluj Napoca, Iași, Timișoara, or Brașov, in order to show that public spaces can become expo places and can be experienced in a creative way by delivering emotions on paper.

We have written around 27.000 letters and more than that amazing stories that changed our lives.





COSÂNZEANA – keeping alive the art of sewing with the help of unemployed mothers and institutionalised teenagers

Cosânzeana – Aninoasa, Romania

www.cosanzeana.ro

Contact person: Laura Leonte, founder

The mothers status quo in the countryside in Romania has yet to evolve – mothers are expected to take care of the family's needs and the household up until kids make a family of their own. The lack of income deprives them from independence, dignity, and causes them to live a life of unfulfillment. After kids grow up and years of unemployment it's very hard for them to find a decent job and fit in at work.

Cosânzeana is a small atelier which produces **do-it-yourself sewing kits** for both kids and adults. Our point of difference is the support we use for the sewing – wood – more specifically plywood. On a national scale, we are on a mission to inspire people to rediscover the lost art of decorative sewing that used to be omnipresent in the everyday life of Romanians. We aim to do so by making attractive designs of small decorative objects that are easier to sew on than the classic textile support.

We communicate our mission to our employees and collaborators. These way women feel empowered – they feel they have an important role in the life of the society. Also, the activities of our atelier are creative and relaxing, making their fitting in very smooth. Moreover, we have offered our employee – mother of three – a flexible schedule so that she can finish her high-school studies. Adding to that, the fact that the founder and the person in charge of the small business is also a woman with kids makes them feel understood and inspired at the same time.

Besides producing the sewing kits, Cosânzeana also produces a small scale of sewn objects. For the sewing part, we collaborate with a day center in Aninoasa that hosts teenagers without family and helps them get their first job. By the time this happens, we want to give them a sense of responsibility and the taste of financial independence. We have already trained 90% if the young people taken care of in the center in sewing. They were free to express their choice to participate in our trainings. Also, they are free to take up the number of objects to sew according to their free time and availability. They learn to work with deadlines on their terms and also learn a practical activity that they can apply in their everyday lives – sewing. At the end of a month they get paid for the services they provided.

We hope that our presence in the village, and the kind way we treat our collaborators give all the people come across our business a sense of respect, of civil rights that they can expect from any employer. Being the only social business in the area, we are hoping to shift people's opinion on the definition of business and create expectations of social involvement from the business sector – an idea that is very new and dear to the locals.





ARTI – NGO of youngsters motivated to produce social change

ARTI - Romanian Association of Youngsters with Initiative - Craiova, Romania

www.arti.ro

Contact: Mrs Cristina Catana - president ARTI

Romanian Association of Youngsters with Initiative (ARTI) aim is to involve young people from Romania in the process of socio-economic development.

Current projects and programs ARTI :

- **Be young entrepreneur fo the future** - "Development of innovation, creativity, responsibility and sustainability of the Romanian strategic entrepreneurship." The overall objective is to develop the managerial and entrepreneurial skills of citizens and promoting business culture among them, developing entrepreneurship, improving competitiveness and generating an increasing number of businesses.
- **Together for a strong community campaign.** We have started a campaign in which we want to offer everyone from Craiova the opportunity to get involved in the process of renovation and cleaning of the Department of Pediatrics from the Philanthropy Hospital.
- **Volunteer Center of Craiova** - permanent program

Work over the years include:

- 4300 young people trained in 17 different fields
- 209 projects implemented
- 2 advocacy campaigns
- 80000 beneficiaries
- 275 active volunteers
- A program turned into a non-governmental organization "Association Club ARTI "
- 47 projects organized with different publicinstitutions in Romania
- The initiators and supporters of local youth policies
- Contribution to Dolj County Development Strategy

Disappointed that too little of what we have built maintained and thrived, we have decided to focus our efforts on developing an educational model for the community of teachers, children and parents, that will develop and grow with community support, involving all stakeholders, thereby promoting quality education. Thus, we set up the British Romanian SCHOOL.





CUIB - urban centre for good initiatives and eco-friendly products

Mai Bine Association– Iași, Romania

www.maibine.eu

www.incuib.ro

Contact: Anca Elena Gheorghică – Executive Director & Co-Founder

In an era of globalization, local traditional products in Romania risk becoming obsolete as they are being replaced by mass-produced, pre-packaged imports. This shift in consumer culture threatens environmental sustainability and does little to promote fair and ethical trade between consumers and local producers. Mai Bine's social enterprise CUIB sells fair-trade and eco-friendly products from local producers who have limited access to markets. The store also organizes community events to raise awareness on sustainability issues.

The Urban Centre for Good Initiatives (CUIB) is a place where creative ideas, civic spirit or ,simply, well-being are encouraged and incubated. CUIB is the first social business in Romania which promotes sustainable consumption. CUIB encourages civic empowerment by changing the attitudes of passive consumer to consum'actor, by raising awareness and by informing about the implications of individual choices in the consumption act on development (local and global).

CUIB is also the first social entrepreneurial project in Romania that functions as a multi-dimensional space that includes a bistro, a shop and a space for organizing events. The project responds to individuals' need of healthy food and environmentally friendly products at affordable prices. It also supports the local economy, raises awareness and educate community members. Moreover, the project aims to protect the natural environment and reduce its impact.

CUIB' hot drinks which can not be produced locally (such as black and white tea and coffee) are certified by the fair trade label, which implies adequate payments for third-country manufacturers. Also, in CUIB are marketed only assortments of wines and beers produced in Romania with romanian capital. The slow food served in the bistro is tasty, healthy and environmentally friendly. During the years they won the following awards- Competiția Întreprinderilor Sociale NESsT 2011-2012, Your Choice Your Project Unicredit 2013.





LOVE CAKES - a sweet dream come true

I Love Cakes – Craiova, Romania

www.facebook.com/pg/cupcakescraiova

Contact person: Mihaela Ruxandra– cake designer

“I always dreamed about being a business and independent woman. Ever since I was a kid I was a bit rebel and always liked to be different from all my friends and colleagues and I must admit I still like it!

After several successful attempts in different fields I wasn't completely happy so I decided to have a "chat" with myself and decide on my future.

I found out that the sweets were always part of my life, that I'm a very motivated person with strong personality, enough financial resources so the only thing that was missing was a little bit of knowledge about "sweets".

I decided I wasn't going to make just sweets or the usual cakes that everyone can make, I will make special and sophisticated cakes that will get to be known and recognized as the best ones!!! And that's how I start my journey with the CUPCAKES.

Of course the fact that I always used only natural, fresh and high quality products was one of the key for my success. It wasn't easy.... and I still have problems, with finding personnel, with the people who make deliveries and many many other little things...My little cupcake shop is only for people who love good food and natural ingredients. People who put price on the hand made things.

On the decoration side I was already doing great as I'm a very creative person with a great sense of taste so shortly, besides the famous cupcakes, I started to make wedding cakes, macrons, eclairs, tarts and many more that marked the personality of the first bakery in Craiova.”





CARTOLINA - expressing thoughts in a simple and elegant way

Cartolina – Bucharest, Romania

www.facebook.com/cartolina.gift

www.cartolina.gift

Contact person: Mihaela Vasilescu – Brand Manager (mihaela@cartolina.gift)

We live in a beautiful, connected world. We feel close to each other, with social media getting us in touch and keeping us updated. But for most of the times, our meetings and conversations don't happen face-to-face. How many "happy birthday" messages or flower emojis haven't you received or sent even for someone really close? We may really appreciate offering a one-on-one congratulation, flowers, a smile or a real greeting card on yearly or daily occasions, but we go with the flow and do it online.

"Cartolina" is a modern brand aiming to bring back in style hand writing, sending compliment cards, greetings and happy birthday cheerful thoughts. All in an elegant fashion, creating simple cards, with preset messages and space for creativity or with icons inspiring beautiful thoughts and very personal relationships.

Our motivation came from a more personal need, while looking for greeting cards and being able to find mostly childish ones, overdesigned but not many clean and minimalist options. In this context, we wanted to create premium designed cards, realized with special papers, using authentic engraving techniques such as screen printing, folio, letterpress.

The brand was launched in 2015, with a first collection dedicated to winter - spring session. The very good feedback and appreciation for the simplicity, the elegance of the cards and the versatility of the messages, encouraged us to continue our passion and dedicate time and resources to make it grow, bring happiness to people who choose our cards and to those receiving them. As the choice of a card is an emotional one; it shows the sender in relation with the recipient and we just love when they choose "Cartolina". Successful business ideas are brought to life and kept creative and fresh with passion and dedication.

"Cartolina" greeting cards

A delicate touch to any gift





BEBEVESSEL.RO – social events designed to support the activity of children with autism from Ancaar

Bebevesel.ro – Craiova, Romania

www.bebevesel.ro

Contact: Simona Vasile - founder

The birth of a child is so complex, that we can say you are never ready to bring a new life in the world. This prejudice comes actually from the fear of everyone to be fully responsible for a new life, the fear that we can not manage it, that we don't know what, but especially how to manage to raise a kid both physically and emotionally healthy.

This fear and the anxiety coming with it are perfectly normal. The parent role play is like no other social role, but, once you learn it, will become the most authentic character anyone will have in their lives. Romanian parenting starts to become more and more present and used, parents realise the difference between education and training. If everyone has talent, the technique is what we need to learn. The same as we go to school to learn how to read, in the same manner we need to know what are the right tools of parenting in order to use them properly. Positive communication, constructive feedback, solution oriented thinking, win-win solving of the conflicts and the necessity that the parent understand how their behaviors influence the kids; these are the main directions of modern parenting.

Through conferences and projects dedicated to parents, organised by Bebevesel.ro in Craiova, we aim to give them basic information regarding their role, helping them to understand the privilege of being a father and a mother. From 3 years we bring to parents from Craiova, qualified trainers to answer to all their questions in different interest areas. In 3 years we talked about: parenting in diversity with Crina Coliban; what does it mean to raise a kid without punishments and rewards with Anca Iordache; how to solve crying and anger crises with Otilia Mantelers; what does empathy and emotion management mean to kids with Monica Reu; about school and how to prepare our kid for tomorrow's world, conference held by Oana Moraru, and Prof. Florin Colceag presented to the parents the basics in children education.

We have organised in Craiova the first educational, free time and nutrition fair for children, named "Zilele Copilariei" (Childhood Days) to encourage kids and the parents as well to understand the importance of extra-scholar activities. We had present over 40 clubs with activities for children from Craiova to present their offers.

And also to encourage quality free time we organised acting shows for kids with the Momolino crew from Bucharest and Childhood cross in Nicolae Romanescu park from Craiova to support physical activity among children. All the events organised by Bebevesel.ro were designed to support the activity of children with autism from ANCAAR Center-Craiova branch. From the money raised thanks to these events a part was donated to ANCAAR Center to support their daily activity and their integration in the society.

