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# • Visegrad Fund

Visegrad project 1<sup>st</sup> study visit to Slovakia and Hungary

*Building International Bridges – Social Entrepreneurship as a Tool for Local Economic Empowerment” project April – December 2022*

*17 – 19 August 2022*

*Location – Slovakia and Hungary*

## REPORT – STUDY VISIT TO SLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY 2022

<b>Project title</b>	❖ <i>Building International Bridges for Social Entrepreneurship as a Tool for Economic Empowerment</i>
<b>Project purpose</b>	❖ Exchanging good practices and policies between 5 partner countries for the social entrepreneurship tools / developing international networks and building bridges between SEE region and EU countries
<b>Project activity</b>	❖ 1st study visit to Slovakia and Hungary
<b>Activity aim</b>	❖ Exchange of good practices between 5 partner countries on social entrepreneurship development
<b>Participants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Municipality of Krobia, Poland – lead organization</li> <li>❖ Municipality of Revuflop, Hungary</li> <li>❖ Municipality of Velky Meder, Slovakia</li> <li>❖ Barka Foundation, Poland</li> <li>❖ SIEC, Social Integration &amp; Empowerment Centre, Macedonia</li> <li>❖ Mislá, Macedonia</li> <li>❖ ERGON, Czech Republic</li> </ul> <p>❖ The detailed list of participants is attached here below, while the lists for attendance were shared during the agenda days.</p> <p>❖ In total, we had 2 participants from Macedonia, 2 participants from Slovakia, 2 participants from the Czech Republic and from Poland we had Barka Foundation and Krobia representatives from the Visegrad project, in coordination with other EU project for elderly social intergration between the Municipality of Revuflop and the Municipality of Krobia, 3 and Barka 2 envisaged but the Krobia mayor could not attend due to his sudden obligations, while one other Barka participant unfortunately got covid</p> <p>❖ Other Krobia project participants were joined within this project, such as the locl council members, cutural centre representatives and the 3rd Age University project whose project was complementary to the Visegrad project and was in synergies with the topic of elderly integration. Thus, we had 7 other participants from Krobia, from NGO local coordination, cultural projects coordination, local council for SE activities etc. 11 and 7, in total 19 participants, while in Slovakia, we also had the representatives of the Spa park who joined us during the lunch and shared their busines eperiences with the elements of social integration. The mayor of Velky Meder also joined the group, including the vice-mayor, who were there to greet the participants</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ In Hungary, we had participants from the local NGO EFOESZ, local council members, representatives of the elderly clubs, teachers etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Project preparations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Were done with the lead organization creating forms for logistical details, including the accomodation, travel, food and agendas details, with the support of Siec and Barka as the project partners and in agreement with other project partners who have sent the agenda proposals for Slovakia and Hungary</li> <li>❖ Project partners also created project presentations / PP while other partners decided to share SE good practices without the PP</li> <li>❖ Some logistical challenges were present in the preparations period, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Arranging travelling from Macedonia to the study visit locations</li> <li>❖ Lack of congruence / impossibility to pay with the project card, Krobia could not make arrangements due to the incompatibility of the card and the Wizzair company payment system</li> <li>❖ Minor challenges with the hotel arrangements in Slovakia, due to the tourist offer in the summer period</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Project agenda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The full agenda is attached here below and within the online Visegrad system, with final reporting; here is a brief summary of the agenda for the study visits to Slovakia and Hungary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The guests from Macedonia arrived on the 16th of August 2022 and were accomodated in the local premises, while other guests arrived on the day of the official agenda.</li> <li>❖ On the 17th of August, all guests were taken to the municipality house, then to the regional aqua and spa park after which they were transported to Hungary, with a common partner dinner</li> <li>❖ The next 2 days were used for networking and study visits and learning opportunities with NGO working on the issues of socio-economic integration of the citizens with special needs, while the final day was used for the preparations of the coming study visit to Macedonia</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>DAY 1 – Vel’ky Meder visit, Slovakia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The official opening was done in the city hall by Ms. Denisa Cador, the project manager who introduced the mayor and the vice-mayor to greet us officially</li> <li>❖ After the official agenda was shared, the country delegations then moved to the meeting space where everybody had the opportunity to introduce themselves and their work</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Slovakian partners then presented their work in the community for elderly integration, their community centre, which is a pilot and a follow-up project with the established community centre opened for the needs of the local citizens who need information, support for children, parents, elderly citizens to make them active, where they conducted a prior needs-based assesment to see what type of support citizens will need from the municipality; also, the focus was given to the Hungarian minority population where some of the elderly people speak only Hungarian and need support with administration in Slovak language so, the project is supporting elderly citizens integration, including the children in education intergation, as they need homework and free-time activities support</li> <li>❖ The project is financed partly by the municipality, with the EU financial support and it is implemented in 2019-2022</li> <li>❖ The municipality also cooperates with local NGOs, where needed – they have around 25 active NGOs in sports, culture, social integration issues; the municipality is considering establishing own social entrepreneurship activities in the future and the inspiration might come from the good practice exchanges with the rest of the Visegrad partners; the Polish partners stressed the importance of municipalities actively creating social entrepreneurship initiatives and supporting sand establishing uch entities that contribute to the socio-economic integration of marginalized groups</li> <li>❖ After this municipality meeting, the delegations visited the local terme park, which is a municipality-owned entity aimed at tourism development; after the lunch that was used for exchange of good practices in smaller groups and for networking, the delegation was taken for a tour around the touristic park and was explained how they operate and manage the park and how they keep their sustaaainability</li> <li>❖ As an answer to the question on social entrepreneurship development, the park director said thay the do work on social integration through the employment of marginalized groups and that they would be even more open for some additional inittatives in the future</li> <li>❖ With the end of the park visit, the delegation was transported to Hungary, for the coming days of the study visit</li> </ul>
<p><b>DAY 2 – Revuflop visit, Hungary</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Upon the evening arrival to the Revuflop municipality in Hungary, the group had a common dinner to additional good practices exchange and networking between partners</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The next study visit day was used to visit the Tapolca municipality where the delegation met with the representatives of the local NGO EFOESZ working on the socio-economic integration of the citizens with special needs</li> <li>❖ The delegation visited a mini-factory where persons with disabilities are employed for assembling and sorting work activities</li> <li>❖ The NGO EFOESZ operates from 1981, in the Balaton region, and they have regional offices, also in the cities of Vezprem and Papa, providing a wide range of service to support persons with disabilities and their families too in their daily socio-economic integration</li> <li>❖ The support is provided in housing, independent living, employment, healthcare and psycho-social support, transport of families, self-support groups, creative workshops and courses; they also provide in-home services to the families so persons with disabilities can live in their homes instead of being put into state institutions</li> <li>❖ Supported living home was also visited by the delegation, where we had the opportunity to see how people live in a home designed for daily activities for 6-8 persons. The delegation could learn that the supported living is regulated by the legislation that was drafted and modified based on the years-long practical experiences of the regional NGO</li> <li>❖ After visiting the mini-factory and the supported living premises for the socio-economic integration of persons with disabilities, the delegation was taken to visit one of the regional centres for the integration of persons with disabilities, could observe their creative workshops and was further informed on their principles of work, through a presentation by the NGO Director</li> <li>❖ The very interesting part for the delegation was the fact that the NGO operates an online shop and participates in fairs for selling their products such as toys, gardening equipment etc. which provides them self-sustainable social entrepreneurship solutions and support for this specific group of citizens. Cultural and touristic events are both the opportunity for their social integration and for the promotion and sales of their products</li> <li>❖ Another important learning point was the fact that Hungary, Macedonia and Poland have different approaches in tax payment for the sales of the products</li> </ul>
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	<p>for NGOs – i.e. in Macedonia, up to 30 000 euro on income is tax-free for economic activities, in Poland the taxes need to be payed, regardless of the activities and in Hungary, no tax payment is imposed so the delegation concluded that the project partners should work on harmonizing the tax payment and social entrepreneurship activities in all partner countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The evening activities were related to the municipality of Revuflop organized dinner with the project partners and the local council and elderly citizens associations – the partners were introduced briefly by the Revuflop mayor and the local members also shared their social integration of elderly citizens from Revuflop</li> <li>❖ The important part of the whole study visit is that synergies were created between the Visegrad partners and the Krobia and Revuflop regular exchange projects, where the members of the 3rd University from Krobia were present, with the local council members from Poland and Hungary, with the representatives of the cultural centres and the centres for retired citizens etc.</li> <li>❖ The delegation once again stressed the importance of such good practices exchange events as relevant and inspirational to continue cooperation in the future</li> </ul>
<p><b>DAY 3, Revuflop visit, Hungary</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The final day was used for the partners’ individual and group consultations regarding the logistical preparations of the coming activities and for the Krobia group to continue their project on elderly integration between Krobia and Revuflop</li> <li>❖ The decisions were being made on the travelling arrangements regarding the Macedonian study visit from 23-26 September 2022, where the partner countries will in the near future inform the main partner Krobia municipality on the flight options and participants to represent their countries during the Macedonian study visit</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project visibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Was done via social media, via the partners’ FB / Instagram pages and the websites, as the following links can show:</li> <li>❖ PARTNERS TO ADD WEBSITES / FB LINKS OR SHARE WITH KROBIA VIA EMAIL FOR THE REPORT</li> </ul>
<p><b>Synergies with other projects</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 3rd Age University project, cultural centres and local council members from Poland and Hungary and the Krobia municipality created synergies with the</li> </ul>

	<p>Visegrad project on the topic of elderly integration, persons with disabilities and cultural tourism</p>
<b>Lessons learnt</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Budget management is challenging due to the logistics of travelling</li> <li>❖ Important to continue such exchange projects as we can see positive changes in partner countries in terms of social entrepreneurship development</li> <li>❖ PARTNERS CAN ADD THEIR LEASSONS VIA EMAIL SENT TO KROBIA <b>by 13 September 2022</b></li> </ul>
<b>Next steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Decide upon the dates of the study visit to Macedonia, make reservations for the trip by the end of August</li> <li>❖ Prepare input on the ISEN network / website, national country reports and the community wisdom brochure devoted to T.Sadowski – <b>input by partners by 13 September 2022</b></li> <li>❖ Prepare a draft content of the national SE development reports</li> <li>❖ Send an email to partners to remind them about the input needed and the preparations for the study visit to Macedonia / also ask partners on the 3 lessons learnt and on the 3 recommendations for this study visit</li> <li>❖ Contact Slovakian and Hungarian partners who were a part of the programme and who could become a part of the ISEN network</li> <li>❖ Ask the partners' PP presentations to be attached to the final reporting</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ For next Visegrad activities – ISEN network continued with the focus on the network building and connecting to the UN SDGs, regional study visit in Serbia, closing study visit in Poland, for more participants, as an idea for the next project</li> <li>❖ Check with the Visegrad Fund the opportunities for receiving and 3rd grant and matching funds with other projects / their support and assistance in finding additional funds for practical support – i.e. each partner country to ask support from the embassies in their countries</li> </ul>

**AGENDA OF THE STUDY VISITS 17-19 AUGUST 2022****„ Study visit in Slovakia (Veľký Meder) and Hungary (Révfülöp)  
August 17th – 19th, 2022****17.08.2022****Study visit in Veľký Meder (Slovakia) –  
August 17th, 2022**

11.00 – 11.15 welcoming guests at the city office  
in Veľký Meder  
11.15 – 12.15 reminder of the main assumptions  
of the project / presentation/discussion/workshop  
in the field of social economy at the city office  
12.20 – 13.30 lunch at the BEATRIX restaurant at  
the Thermalpark Corvinus  
13.30 – 15.30 visit of Thermalpark Corvinus,  
workshop in the field of tourism, culture,  
education system – examples of best practice  
16.00 transfer to Révfülöp (Hungary)  
18.00 arrival in Révfülöp.  
19.00 dinner

**18.08.2022****Study visit in Révfülöp (Hungary) DAY 1 –  
August 18th, 2022**

8.00 breakfast  
9.00 departure to Tapolca  
10.00 – 12.00 visit to the Veszprém County  
Advisory Association for People with Intellectual  
Disabilities  
12.00 – 13.00 Tapolca, short sightseeing tour  
13.00 departure to Révfülöp  
14.00 lunch  
15.00 small group consultations and short  
presentations of each project partner about senior  
policy in their countries/cities and cultural  
tourism  
19.00 dinner

**19.08.2022****Study visit in Révfülöp (Hungary) DAY 2 –  
August 19th, 2022**

8.00 breakfast  
9.00 15-minute presentations by the programme  
partners, exchange of views  
11.00 summary of the seminar experience  
12.30 lunch  
13.00 closing the study visit in Révfülöp



## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Vel'ky Meder, Slovakia / 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2022 / Revuflop, Hungary / 18-19 August 2022

	Participant	Organisation	Email address / tel.
2	Gordana Rodic	Executive Director, SIEC, Macedonia	
3	Dimitar Ilcov	Executive Director, Misl, Macedonia	
4	Romana B�lov�	Head of production, Ergon, Czech Republic	
5	Ladislav Dob�a	Head of production, Ergon, Czech Republic	
6	Ildik� Laposov�	Vice Mayor, Municipality of Vel'ky Meder, Slovakia	
7	Denisa Cz�d�r	Project manager, Municipality of Vel'ky Meder, Slovakia	
8	G�za Kondor	Mayor, Municipality of R�vf�l�p, Hungary	
9	Gy�rgy Feh�r	Advisor / Interpreter / Municipality of R�vf�l�p, Hungary	
10	Dagmara Szlandrowicz	Animator, Barka Foundation for Mutual Help, Poland	
11	Danuta Potrawiak	Barka Foundation for Mutual Help, Poland	
12	Micha� Listwo�	Vice Mayor, Municipality of Krobia / Poland	
13	Edyta Rokicka	Project coordinator (also: Head of the Social Welfare Centre in Krobia), Municipality of Krobia, Poland /	



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