



## The National Strategy for the Development of Social Entrepreneurship (Croatia)

### What?

Adopted in 2015, the “Strategy for the Development of Social Entrepreneurship in the Republic of Croatia for the period 2015-2020” represents a seminal document for the creation of a policy framework for social enterprises<sup>1</sup>. The Strategy’s main objective is to boost social enterprise creation and growth in Croatia by establishing more supportive institutional and financial frameworks.

*<sup>1</sup>Terminological inconsistencies still exist in the Croatian discourse, where the terms social entrepreneurship, social enterprise and social entrepreneur are often used interchangeably.*

### Why?

Prior to the Strategy, the policy discourse recognised social entrepreneurship only as a component of civil society, and social enterprises struggled to adapt to unsuitable and sometimes contradictory regulations. The Strategy was developed to acknowledge their unique specificities and better meet their needs.

### Key activities

The Strategy’s overall implementation relies on bringing together multiple stakeholders: relevant ministries and national government institutions, as Strategy co-owners; local authorities; local and regional development agencies; CSOs; social enterprises; financial institutions; and academia.

The Strategy includes four main measures:

- Develop and improve the legislative and institutional framework. This implies setting up a dedicated institutional body and official register of social enterprises; harmonising legislation; providing unused public spaces and buildings for use by social enterprises; developing partnerships among public bodies to support social entrepreneurship and developing a social impact measurement methodology.
- Establish an adequate financial framework by developing a unique guarantee mechanism/fund and

- provide systematic financial support (grant schemes) linked to EU funds and national budget co-financing.
- Promote social entrepreneurship through education by supporting social entrepreneurship educational programmes and lifelong learning projects; producing informative publications; encouraging further education about social entrepreneurship for teachers, adults and civil servants.
  - Increase visibility and information by producing promotional materials, highlighting examples of good practices and by developing social-enterprise market labels.

The Strategy further prescribes the establishment of a Council for Social Entrepreneurship – an advisory body in charge of monitoring its implementation.

## Impact

Considering its relatively recent implementation, no data on the impact of the Strategy was available at the time of preparation of this case study (2016-2017).

*This case study was adapted from a longer piece that was published in the OECD/EC (2017), [Boosting Social Enterprise Development: Good Practice Compendium](#). For additional information and details, please refer to the [original publication](#) [1]*

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### Links

[1] <http://www.oecd.org/publications/boosting-social-enterprise-development-9789264268500-en.htm>