

Social entrepreneurship in Czech Republic 1989 – 2015

FOKUS – Association for Mental Health Care



1990 - 2000

- 1953 Establishing the production cooperatives of invalides (focused on persons with disabilities)
- 1989 „Velvet revolution“ - change of political regime
- 1990 Fokus was founded
- 1999 Opening of the first social firm in Czech Republic (Júnův statek – Jún’s farm)**
- 2000 Development of cafes as sheltered workshops by other NGOs

2001 - 2010

2003 The gradual emergence of other social firms

Creation of the common Standards of social firms

Social firm mission and definition in areas:

- Enterprise: enterprise, financing, operation, awareness and presentation
- Employment: disadvantaged employees., contract and wages, ethical principles, internal communication, organizational structure
- Support: Adaptation, maintenance, professional development, co-operation

2001 - 2010

- 2006 Social Services Law (social firms are not social services, means they don't receive subsidies for social services) but Labour Office covers the salaries of disadvantaged people
- 2007 Begins development of social business, creation of independent working groups;
- 2010 Set up of the Social Firms Platform**

2011 - 2013

2011 Starting activities of **TESSEA** (Thematic Network for Social Economy)
the production cooperatives of invalides are part of TESSEA

The assumption of the systematic support from EU

2012 Projects from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to support
social firms - finance from EU (for start ups and not for NGOs)

2013 Change in support from Labour Office for social firms and sheltered
workshops - Labour Office pays only a part of wages for
disadvantaged people (eg. in the social firms of Fokus decrease about
30%).

Fokus must close 3 sheltered workshops

2013 - ?

Definition of social enterprise as an enterprise with added value (not necessarily must be an employment)

2014 Ending projects to support social firms (30% of the start ups is again closed, another 50% restrict activities)

Min.of Labour and Soc.Affairs – cooperation with TESSEA and P3P consultants to formulate indicators for the WISE and the training type of the social enterprise) – formulating the indicators

2015 Soc. enterprises **should** be included in the legislative framework and to get support from Min.of Labour and Soc.affairs, **but ...**