Social Enterprise Finance at Erste Group

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This is where Erste has started...

- In 1819 Erste österreichische Spar-Casse was founded as first saving bank in the territory of Austrian monarchy
- Banking services were at that time available only for rich people
- The new saving bank enabled low income inhabitants to save and borrow money
- Educated citizens worked on voluntary basis for the new savings bank





...and this is where we are now



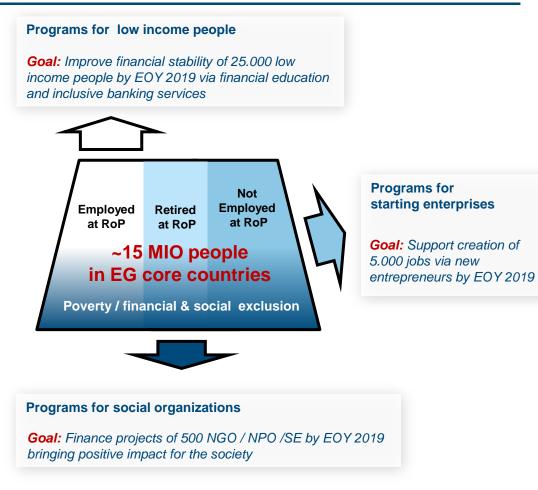


position	clients
No 1	3,6m
No 3	1.2m
No1	4.7m
No3	0.9m
No1	3.1m
No10	0.4m
No1	2.3m
	No 1 No 3 No1 No3 No1 No10



Social Banking scope at Erste

Target segments



Criteria for Social Banking

Creating impact

- improving financial stability and financial inclusion of low income people
- enabling job creation via financing new entrepreneurs
- enlarging impact of social organizations

Enabling accessibility

 service / products not provided to certain segment by local financial sector

Reaching sustainability

- covering marginal costs of SB activity from client revenues
- all potential profits reinvested in SB



Source: Eurostat: People at risk of poverty or social exclusion by age and sex [ilc_peps01]] for population 16+ in Erste core countries in 2015, Unemployment rates mostly Q1 2017

Program for social organizations 1/2

Goal?

Support development / growth of social organizations and thus scale-up their social impact in various areas

Why?

- (1) Impact social organizations tackle big societal issues which a bank directly cannot address (Roma integration, homeless, drug addictions, elderly care...), in helping them to grow we indirectly foster improving our societies
- (2) Need NGO/NPO in CEE are underfinanced (low donations), dependent on state grants / EU projects, exit of international foundations; SE lacking business know-how, scale
- (3) Access in CEE (but also WE limited) no bank financing available for social sector
- (4) Rising market 2 million social economy enterprises in Europe (10% of all businesses in the EU); more than 11 million people (about 6% of the EU's employees)
- (5) Support EaSI guarantee & technical assistance by EIF; Support in creating impact funds incl. first-loss, matching schemes (e.g. SIA, EFSI); European Social Fund...



Program for social organizations 2/2

What?

- (1) Bridge loans to pre-finance local subsidies or EU projects and working capital loans
- (2) Investment loans to finance property or needed equipment max 500.000
- (3) Education support NGO academy, fundraising academy, impact accelerator, business model consulting, networking, mentoring

Results?

- (1) Program rolled out in Austria, Slovakia, Czechia, Hungary and Romania
- (2) 160 financed organizations with 14 MIO EUR, ~90.000 average loan size, mostly bridge and investment loans
- (3) Very low risk (young portfolio)
- (4) Good response from society, media, politics



MFIs developing social finance

Why?

- (1) High impact if we really mean our social impact mission
- (2) High future potential growing market supported by EU, local public sector
- (3) Diversification of portfolio usually substantially lower risk to microfinance
- (4) Cooperation SE/NGO as link to vulnerable microfinance clients

Challenges?

- (1) Local SE market number of financeable organizations
- (2) Funding substantially higher ticket size and longer maturities
- (3) Low pricing compared with microfinance, makes business case challenging
- (4) Risk assessment need to get know-how and develop experience



One client video story – association Neratov in Czechia



