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EU project set to revitalise long established social economy organisations.

Maltese professional training hub, Skills Zone Malta has announced that it has officially partnered up with organisations ROTHА TEORANTA (Ireland), ACT GRUPA (Croatia), SYNTHESIS (Cyprus), Social Innovation Centre (Latvia), Knowl Social Enterprise for Education and Lifelong Learning (Greece) and DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY to support and revitalise long established social economy organisations to the forefront of business in the EU.

The RevitaLESE (Revitalising EU Long Established Social Economy Organisations) Project, is an Erasmus+ funded initiative set to give the European social economy sector a significant boost, maximize its impact, and increase its overall visibility and recognition as a key contributor to the 2020 Agenda.

Studies of ongoing training needs have begun within the project's consortium and significant gaps in the current training offerings available to social economy organisations have already been identified, such as ongoing support beyond the start-up phase. The project will co-create and valorise an in-depth and innovative training package to tactfully address such issues. The RevitaLESE training package which will be released and offered free of charge in Europe. Other highlights will include the establishment of a Europe wide information and networking hub specifically for established social economy organisations, featuring case studies, podcasts, videos, an interactive map of the RevitaLESE EU network including unlimited access to training and resources.

Maltese Project Manager, Maryrose Francica said all project partners feel strongly that carefully designed programmes such as these are essential to inspire, support and incentivise the revitalisation of LESE organisations.

“LESE organisations will be supported to be more impactful and effective by adapting their business models towards greener, more digital business ecosystems that lead the way in driving a sustainable economic model, working for people and the planet. We are beginning to see the concerning repercussions of a high consumerism fuelled culture that gives nothing back but profit... the shared values and features which unite social economy organisations such as putting people over profits, and the reinvestment of the majority of

profits to carry out sustainable developments and services is finally being recognised and is moving in a much more positive direction for all”.

The social economy is a major player of the European social market economy. There are 2.8 million social economy enterprises and organisations, ranging from SMEs to large EU groups. It is present across all sectors and employs 13.6 million people, accounting for 8% of the EU's GDP.

The project is set to run for 2 years. The EU spends approximately 100 euro per citizen per year on regional funds, creating jobs, improving infrastructure and developing training.

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Skills Zone Malta is a training hub of professional trainers in the field of Entrepreneurship, personal development and soft skills, training people in both f2f and online environments.

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