

World Economic Forum on Europe and Central Asia 2011

Vienna, Austria, 8-9 June 2011

Social Entrepreneurs – World Economic Forum on Europe and Central Asia 2011



Juergen Griesbeck - Streetfootballworld - Germany

Millions of young people around the world are born into a cycle of social injustice with little opportunity to break out. Through the love of football, streetfootballworld brings individuals and organisations together behind a common goal: empowering young people to rise above their circumstances. The streetfootballworld network unites over 80 organisations that use football to tackle social challenges like HIV/AIDS and homelessness. In 2010 alone they helped over 400,000 young people around the world harness their passion for the beautiful game to overcome local challenges. streetfootballworld drives an international coalition of private and public sector bodies to strengthen network members through capacity development programmes, opportunities to share expertise, partnerships, and advocacy work - because stronger network members mean better opportunities for the young people who need them most.



Andreas Heinecke - Dialogue Social Enterprise – Germany

Dialogue Social Enterprise (DSE) offers unique exhibition concepts that break down prejudices around the handicapped and foster dialogue. This is achieved through our popular "Dialogue in the Dark" exhibition where blind guides lead visitors in total darkness, and through our "Dialogue in Silence" exhibition where deaf guides invite the visitor into the world of silence to explore various forms of non-verbal communication. In addition to the exhibitions, DSE offers corporate workshops and events that provide innovative tools for human resource development, leadership training and team building.



Tibor Héjj - Napra Forgó (Sunflower) – Hungary

Napra Forgó is a non-profit employment agency for underprivileged people, especially disabled and handicapped people. Its innovative approach creates "work teams" that include disabled and abled workers who take on outsourced service jobs in packaging, gardening, cleaning and other activities for companies. Each year, 30-50 people are hired as full-time employees to pre-contracted companies, integrating members of the group into the normal market economy.



Rut Kolínská - Network of Mother Centers – Czech Republic

The Network of Mother Centers (Sít materských center v České republice) is a non-profit organization that seeks to help women with small children maintain their professional skills and develop self-confidence. The centres offer numerous activities for families, including crafts, sports and educational and requalification programmes. Currently, maternity centers turn into a community center for all generations. With more than 350 centers throughout the country, the network offers an open public space and direct help to more than 70.000 families.



Norbert Kunz - iq consult – Germany

Iq consult seeks to lower unemployment, especially in the eastern parts of Germany, by training, mentoring and funding unemployed and disadvantaged people who are looking to become self-employed. To date, over 10,000 people have been consulted, trained and mentored, leading to the creation of 1,500 new companies, with over 1.5 generated jobs per newly founded company. More than 70% of the companies survived their first three years, which is well above the average for newly created companies in Germany.



Laurent Laik - Groupe La Varappe – France

Groupe La Varappe creates jobs in the south of France for people who have been excluded from society. Groupe La Varappe is composed of two main organizations. One is focused on finding temporary employment for people with minimal qualifications. The other organization focuses on three environmental areas: construction and green spaces, waste, and renewable energies. More than 65% of the employees who left La Varappe found a steady job in another company.



Reed Paget – Belu Water – UK

Belu Water is the world’s first bottled water company to become carbon neutral, the first in Europe to use compostable bottles made from corn, the first to promote PVC-free packaging and the first to donate all profits to clean water projects. Belu Water has also encouraged the rest of the drinks industry to address their environmental footprint. In addition to its environmental agenda, Belu has thus far provided access to clean drinking water to over 40,000 people in India, Bangladesh, Mali and Madagascar.



Jean-Louis Ribes - Distribution Services Industriels (DSI) – France

DSI employs disabled people to perform industrial and tertiary services, such as data capture and photocopying. However, these jobs can evolve quickly to higher value-added activities. For example, DSI employees work in industrial logistics and R&D, which includes a contract with France’s Ministry of Defense to ramp up signal processing for its radar systems. Other areas where DSI works include providing aeronautical parts for Airbus and transportation logistics for Air France in Toulouse.



Sue Riddlestone and Pooran Desai- BioRegional– United Kingdom

BioRegional Development Group is a social enterprise which invents and delivers real life sustainable communities and businesses. This includes the multi award winning BedZED eco-village in London where BioRegional have their main base and seven companies including green property developer BioRegional Quintain, kerbside recycling for SME’s, clean tech for the paper industry and local charcoal supplies to national retailers. BioRegional developed the “one planet living” sustainability design and delivery framework out of their practical experience which is now being used by manufacturers, retailers, local authorities and events such as the London 2012 Olympics in fifty countries around the world. BioRegional have sister organisations or representative offices in North America, China, Greece, Mexico and South Africa.



Barbara Sadowska - Barka-Kofoed School – Poland

BARKA (“lifeboat”) resettles members of a growing group of homeless and socially marginalized people in rural communities, providing them with the sense of belonging they deeply need. It also helps to revitalize the Polish countryside by refurbishing the abandoned rural infrastructure left behind by migratory trends. Barka’s approach is based on fostering self/mutual help and private initiative. Since 1993, it has set up 20 communities across Poland and currently provides a more dignified way of life for 600 residents. About 5,000 people a year are offered other direct assistance. Barka has replicated its model in France, Germany, the Netherlands, Ukraine and Belarus.



Ramazan Salman - Ethno-Medizinisches Zentrum – Germany

The Ethno-Medizinisches Zentrum, or Ethno-Medical Centre, assists migrants navigate the German health system and helps overcome language and cultural barriers to promote good health. Through its With Migrants for Migrants (MiMi) programme, multilingual intercultural mediators are recruited and trained to teach the German health system and related health topics to migrant communities. This includes addressing such issues as how to handle medication, alcohol consumption, children’s health, pregnancy, family planning and HIV/AIDS.





Vojtech Sedláček - Agentura ProVás - Czech Republic

Vojtech Sedláček has created a venture that incubates projects and business that employ disabled individuals. Agentura ProVás employs both full-time and part-time disabled individuals in projects in Prague and many towns throughout the Czech Republic. To counteract the government and societies' tendency to hide the disabled in institutions and subsidize them, Agentura ProVás places a percentage of the disabled employees in highly public places, such as the Senate cloakroom and at the Tower of Astrological Clock, to demonstrate that disabled people can be productive members of society.



Markus H. Seidel - Off Road Kids Foundation – Germany

Founded in 1993, the Off Road Kids Foundation runs the only countrywide street social work system for street children, runaways and homeless young people in Germany with branches in Berlin, Dortmund (Ruhr-Area), Hamburg and Cologne. Since 1993 Off Road Kids' street social workers did find new sustainable perspectives for more than 2,000 young people – far away from the dangerous street life. The foundation defines its profit in the quality and number of sustainable solutions found for them. Off Road Kids Foundation also runs own children's homes for former runaways and the University Institute for Pedagogic Management to bring experienced educators without any A-Levels to a Bachelor Degree (which only three percent of them have in Germany).



Erzsébet Szekeres - Alliance Rehabilitation – Hungary

Founded in 1986 with a grant of only US\$ 3,000, Alliance Rehabilitation has grown to become the largest and most productive disabled housing and employment centre in Hungary. The centre offers occupation in 16 different areas for over 800 people as well as community and medical care. Due to its highly entrepreneurial business model, Alliance Rehabilitation has gained the respect for disabled persons in the business world and society as a whole.



Petra Vitousova - Bily Kruh Bezpeci - Czech Republic

Bily Kruh Bezpeci is the first organization of its kind in the Czech Republic to help victims of crime. It provides a 24-hour hotline and advice centres throughout the country, which offer emotional support and free counselling, including legal aid. The organization shares its knowledge and experience throughout Central and Eastern Europe.



Rose Volz-Schmidt - wellcome – Germany

Wellcome organizes practical and non-bureaucratic assistance for families with babies and young children. By pairing volunteers (many of whom are experienced mothers) with families, Wellcome aims to reduce stressful situations and violence against children, as well as address issues related to postpartum depression. Wellcome works with a broad network of institutions and pediatricians to enhance the local family network. Organized as a social franchise, wellcome cooperates with regional family institutions in Germany that take the wellcome concept and add it to their programs.



Mel Young - Homeless World Cup - United Kingdom

A "serial" entrepreneur, Young's work with homelessness over the past 20 years has led him to his latest endeavour, the Homeless World Cup, which uses football as an entry mechanism to move people away from the streets. Annual research shows that around 80% of the players made significant changes to their lives as a direct result.