

Social entrepreneurship

Abstract

Social entrepreneurship is a new way of providing social support that is increasingly gaining popularity. Social enterprises are popular initiatives that use market mechanisms to finance their goals that are beneficial to society. The aim of this thesis is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the phenomenon of social entrepreneurship, both its international roots for creating necessary context and especially its Czech form. It develops its topic into three thematic areas.

The first one focuses on defining basic terminology of the field including the term social entrepreneurship itself, but also other terms such as social economy or third sector. It also introduces the basic conceptions of social entrepreneurship, namely European one and American one, while due to the greater relevance for Czech social entrepreneurship, more emphasis is placed on the European concept of social entrepreneurship. Last but not least, the most commonly used variation of social entrepreneurship is defined in the first chapter. Social enterprises in this subtype are called Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISE) and focus on the integration and employment of people who are disadvantaged in some way in the labour market.

The second part of the thesis focuses on social entrepreneurship in the Czech Republic. Firstly, it examines the tradition of reciprocity and solidarity in our territory, on which modern social enterprises can build upon. It then focuses on the development of social entrepreneurship itself and the societal processes that lead to its spread. The remainder of the second chapter is taken up with a detailed analysis of the various definitions of social entrepreneurship that have emerged in the absence of legislative framework.

The third and final chapter contains an analysis of the legal regulation focusing on the institutes that enable social entrepreneurship in the Czech Republic. Subsequently, the thesis maps individual attempts to regulate, even if only partly, the complex phenomenon of social entrepreneurship. The thesis concludes with a detailed analysis of the current bill on Work Integration Social Enterprise, including its comparison with earlier bills and *de lege ferenda* suggestions.

Klíčová slova: third sector, social economy, social entrepreneurship