

SEMPRE / SEMPRE Accelerators

Supporting micro projects in social services

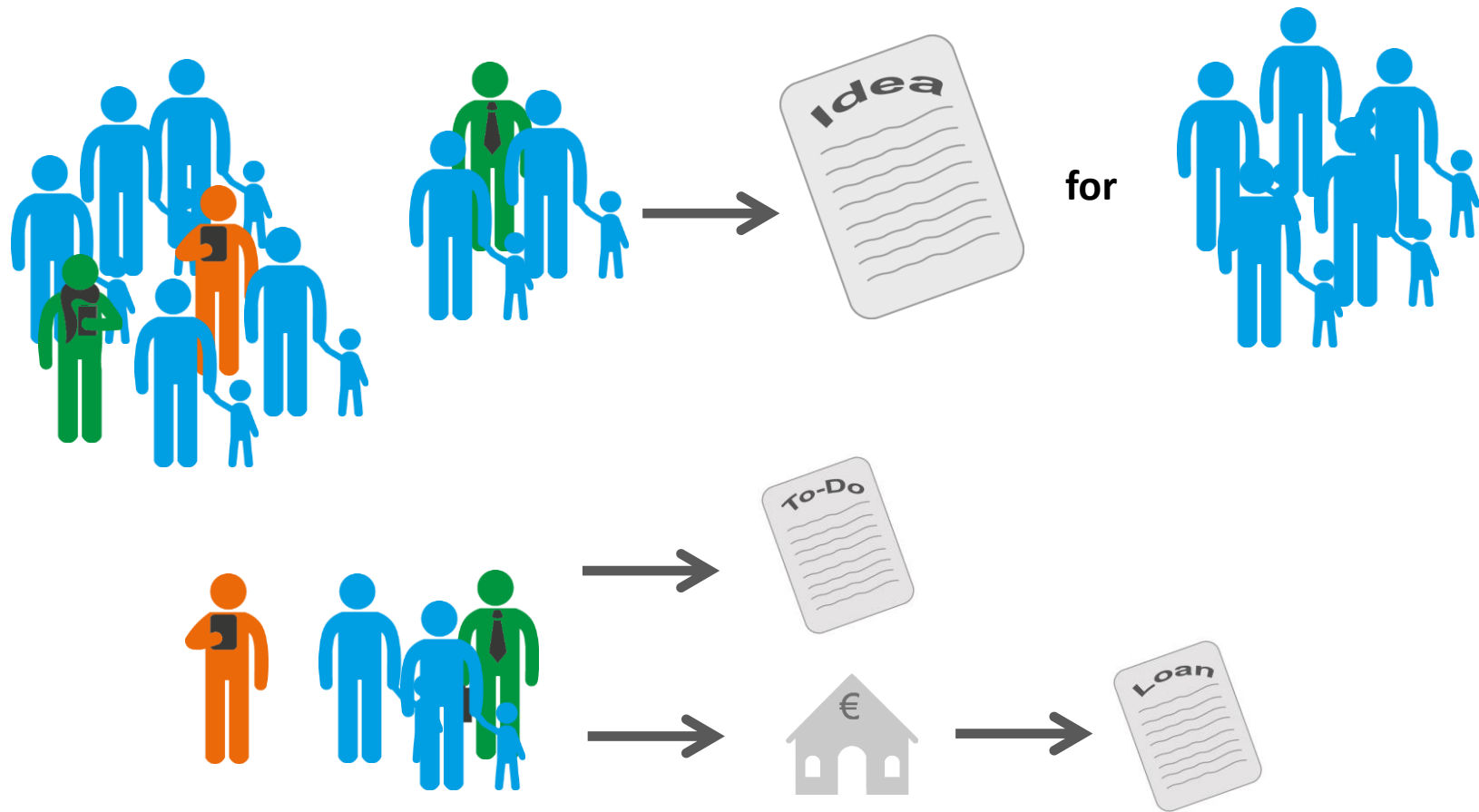
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Workshop „Does social innovation have a place in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region?“

SEMPRE and SEMPRE Accelerators

- Vulnerable groups in rural areas lack access to social services
- Social service providers lack resources to offer services to everyone in need
- Idea: Service providers empower service users (e.g. single parents, migrants, young adults with mental health issues) to...
 - ... identify and voice their (service) needs
 - ... discover their own skills
 - ... develop ideas for new social services
 - ... start bottom-up initiatives to deliver these services

Micro projects in SEMPRE



Micro project examples

- A tailor cooperative founded by migrants together with an entrepreneur in Norrbotten, Sweden
- A coffee shop that offers employment and space for activities in rural Latvia
- An website run for and by single parents in Dithmarschen, Germany
- An empty church that turned into a self-organised community centre in Estonia

More about all of our micro projects:

<https://www.sempre-project.eu/micro-projects>



From micro projects to inclusive social start-ups

- Co-creation process: Project partners started the initiatives, but the idea was to leave ownership of the micro projects to the service users
- Aim: Micro projects develop into self-sustaining initiatives and continue to exist after the project
- Extension stage project **SEMPRE Accelerators**: continuing support to turn micro projects into inclusive social start-ups
- „Accelerator Teams“ set up around the micro projects

WHY we supported micro projects in SEMPRE

Micro projects would never have developed by themselves, because...

... service users

- often feel powerless,
- have too little awareness of their own skills,
- lack the resources and networks,
- have little experience in organising such kind of initiatives

... and service providers

- prefer to work the way they always have
- don't see a benefit in co-creation
- lack the skills to really empower users

SEMPRE/SEMPRE Accelerators achievements

- Demonstrating that it is possible to initiate successful user-led initiatives (or eventually, inclusive social start-ups) with the right amount of support
- Showing alternative ways for social service providers (welfare associations, NGOs, public authorities) to improve the service coverage in rural areas
- Inspiring service providers to explore empowerment and co-creation and re-think their organisational principles
- Giving guidelines for improving the eco-system for inclusive social innovation

SEMPRE Accelerators and the EUSBSR objectives

- Increasing prosperity
 - The BSR economy does not only consist of the large and dynamic urban centres. Rural areas should not be forgotten!
 - Social innovation has great job creation potential. The social service sector provides a lot of jobs in rural areas.
 - Empowering and activating underprivileged groups and fighting social exclusion means more just and inclusive growth
 - Technological innovation is not complete without non-tech innovation. Example: digital solutions should be available to everyone, including underprivileged groups

SEMPRE Accelerators and the EUSBSR objectives

- Connecting the region
 - Social innovation can bring people from different professional backgrounds together – it should not be limited only to the social sector!
 - Through social projects, BSR cooperation reaches groups that otherwise have little transnational experience and brings the EU closer to people
- As a social innovation project, not fitting clearly into any of the Policy Areas, we often felt left out by the EUSBSR.
- The project would have greatly benefitted from the support structure and networks that the EUSBSR can provide.

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