



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

# Social Entrepreneurship in Estonia

**Minna Harjo**

Civil Society Policy Department

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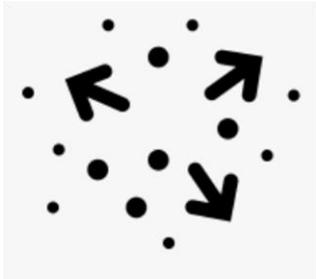


# Where are we today?

- Early stage of development in relation to many other European countries
- Low public awareness of SE opportunities and potential impact



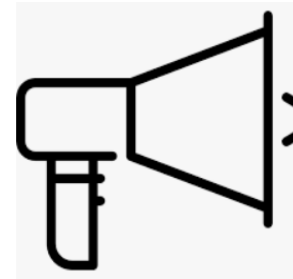
# Challenges



Fragmentation



Access to finance



Lack of awareness



Legal framework



Skills and capacity



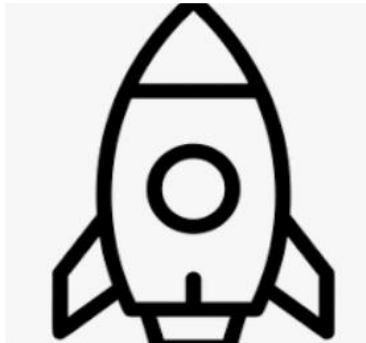
Lack of common definition



# Strengths and opportunities



Dynamic civil society



Vibrant start-up culture



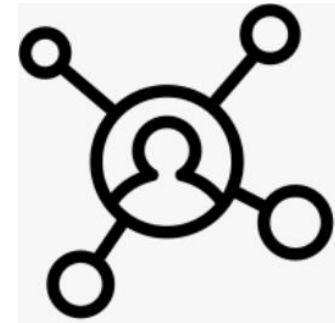
SE in higher education



Strong partnerships



Unreleased potential



Supportive infrastructure



# Legal framework

- No separate law on social entrepreneurship, nor a special register.
- Established as non-profit associations, foundations and private limited companies
- Some operate as hybrid organisations



# Definition



# Statistics & industries

- In 2018 there were 126 social enterprises in Estonia (*Statistics Estonia*)
  - ✓ €45.7m sales generated income
  - ✓ 1743 paid staff
- Industries vary widely. Most popular are:
  - ✓ Social welfare (approx 1/3 of all SE-s)
  - ✓ Health (physical and mental)
  - ✓ Education





# Support network

- Social Enterprise Estonia, National Foundation of Civil Society, Good Deed Foundation
- Incubators
  - ✓ Social Innovation Incubator (NULA)
  - ✓ Business idea incubator Ajujaht
- County Development Centre Network – counselling for enterprises and NGOs
- EU projects & funding (SoFiMa, Social Innovation Competency Centres)
- Strategic partnership





# Strategic partnership

- Goals defined in Civil Society Programme
- Four strategic partners selected through a public tender
- Social Enterprise Estonia strategic partner to the ministry:
  - ✓ Improving operating environment of SE
  - ✓ Sustainable social enterprises



# Examples



## Edumus MTÜ

**Target group:** Highly educated professionals and schools

**Impact:** alleviating teacher shortages, reducing teachers' workload and class expansion.

**More info:** <https://edumus.org/>



## Communicare OÜ

**Target group:** Elderly people at care homes

**Impact:** alleviating the lack of communication of the elderly living in care homes through the digitization of social welfare institutions in the form of AI, VR and other solutions.

**More info:**

<https://communicare.ee/>





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Thank you!

