



## EU-Project RURINNO: Short Introduction

RURINNO is an EU funded research and training project about **social entrepreneurship and social innovations in rural Europe**. We pay emphasis on cross-sectoral collaboration, mutual learning and knowledge-exchange. Our consortium comprises two outstanding research institutes (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space, Erkner/Germany, Institute for Innovation Management, Johannes Kepler University Linz/Austria) and four highly experienced social enterprises operating in rural regions in Ireland, Poland, Austria and Greece. We share a strong interest in making rural regions an attractive place for living, working and visiting. We are convinced that social enterprises are an important type of actor, which promotes innovative solution to challenges occurring in rural regions today. Our project has **three goals**: First, it strives to **strengthen the innovative capacity of social enterprises** by cross-sectoral trainings, joint analyses of empirical findings and working on tangible products (book, practice toolkit). Second, RURINNO aims at **enhancing the political and public awareness of social entrepreneurship in rural regions** by informing about rural social entrepreneurship in public media, by organising a policy round table and publishing a policy brief. Thirdly, it strives to **improve the knowledge and the theoretical conceptualization** of how social enterprises foster social innovations and promote social change in rural regions.

### Project details:

Project	Social innovations in structurally weak rural regions: How social entrepreneurs foster innovative solutions to social problems (RURINNO), <a href="http://rural-innovations.net/">http://rural-innovations.net/</a>
Funding scheme	EU Horizon 2020, Marie Skłodowska Curie Action, RISE (Research and innovation staff exchange)
Funding amount	225,000 EUR
Duration	February 2016 until March 2018
Consortium members	<b>Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space (IRS) in Erkner/Germany</b> : Prof Dr Gabriela Christmann (Project coordinator), Dr Ralph Richter, Jan Zwillig <b>Institute for Innovation Management (IFI), Johannes-Kepler University Linz/Austria</b> : Prof Dr Matthias Fink, Dr Daniela Maresch, Dr Johannes Gartner <b>Ballyhoura Development CLG, Kilfinane/Ireland</b> : Pádraig Casey, Catherine Smyth, John Hassett, Patricia Boyle <b>OTELO eGen, Vorchdorf/Austria</b> : Martin Hollinetz, Wolfgang Mader <b>NIDA Foundation, Nidzica/Poland</b> : Krzysztof Margol, Renata Debska, Malwina Jablonska <b>Stevia Hellas, Lamia/Greece</b> : Christos Stamatidis, Stella Dampasi



The RurInno consortium at the Kick-off meeting, taking place at the Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space in Erkner/Berlin, February 2016



RurInno practitioners during a training at the Institute for Innovation Management, Johannes-Kepler University Linz/Austria



RurInno researchers interview Pádraig Casey, CEO of Ballyhoura Development CLG in Kilfinane/Ireland



Virtual reality in rural Europe: Researcher Ralph Richter (IRS) during his research secondment in an OTELO open technology lab in Vordchdorf/Austria



Stevia Hellas staff members develop new cultivation methods for Stevia plants



Researcher Matthias Fink presents findings of the RurInno project to policy makers, social entrepreneurs and researchers at a symposium in Olsztyn/Poland, organised by the Voivodship Warmian-Masurian and the NIDA foundation