

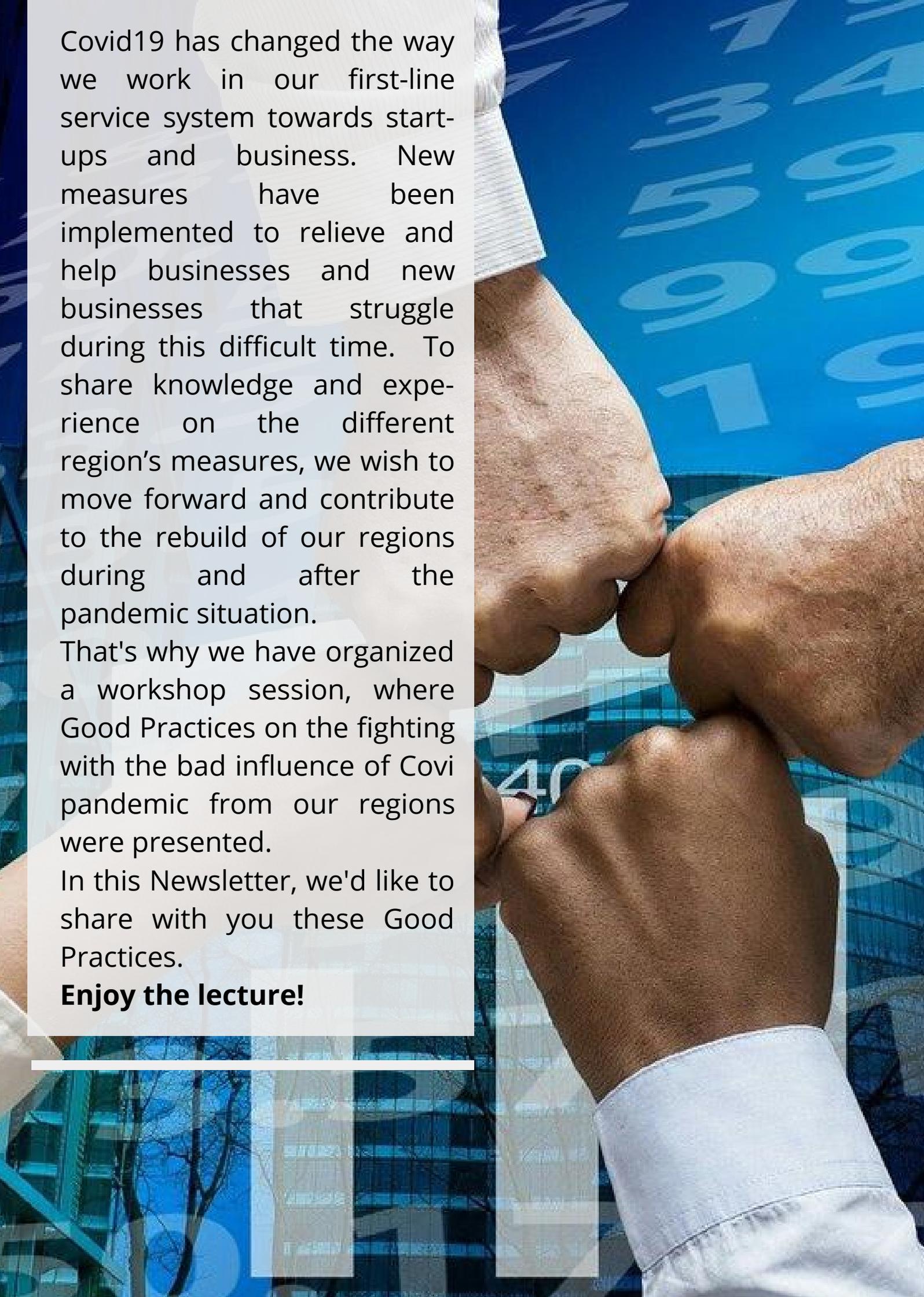


OSS VS COVID

NEWSLETTER COVID EDITION / MAY 2021



THE SPECIAL EDITION OF THE OSS NEWSLETTER ON THE
COVID MEETING THAT TOOK PLACE ON 23 MARCH 2021 VIA
TEAMS PLATFORM



Covid19 has changed the way we work in our first-line service system towards start-ups and business. New measures have been implemented to relieve and help businesses and new businesses that struggle during this difficult time. To share knowledge and experience on the different region's measures, we wish to move forward and contribute to the rebuild of our regions during and after the pandemic situation.

That's why we have organized a workshop session, where Good Practices on the fighting with the bad influence of Covi pandemic from our regions were presented.

In this Newsletter, we'd like to share with you these Good Practices.

Enjoy the lecture!



HILDE HOEFANGELS

LOOKING BACK ON A YEAR OF COVID

On 23 March 2021, we run a special meeting that was focused on measures to fight the bad influence of the Covid-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, we are still fighting the pandemic, and we all hope that we'll be able to fight it effectively very soon.

Of course, pandemic also has some influence on the entrepreneurship. The crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic is a serious shock to the economy. Its financial effects were felt by both people and companies from all sectors. European Union Member States have long introduced various types of budgetary measures to support liquidity and other national policy measures to increase national health systems' capacity and help citizens and sectors particularly affected by the pandemic.

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HILDE HOEFANGELS

FINANCIALLY FIT IN TIMES OF COVID

What to do if your company suddenly closes its doors and cannot open them again?

Restaurants, cinemas, fitness centers... Well, the only thing you can do, is actually looking for other ways to keep your business going. Basically, there are only 2 possible solutions: to run or to hide. All those who stand still, are lost.

Three things are important in a company:

Relevance: Does your company matter? Do you offer an answer to the demand of your client? Does your client have an emotional connection to your product or service?

Differentiation: do you differ from other companies? Are you innovative, a trendsetter?

Availability: is your product or service available and can you deliver it quickly?

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Robin De Cock is a professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Antwerp Management School. He has specific ideas about the Business Model Canvas in current times. Here is a translation of one of his speeches on the topic.

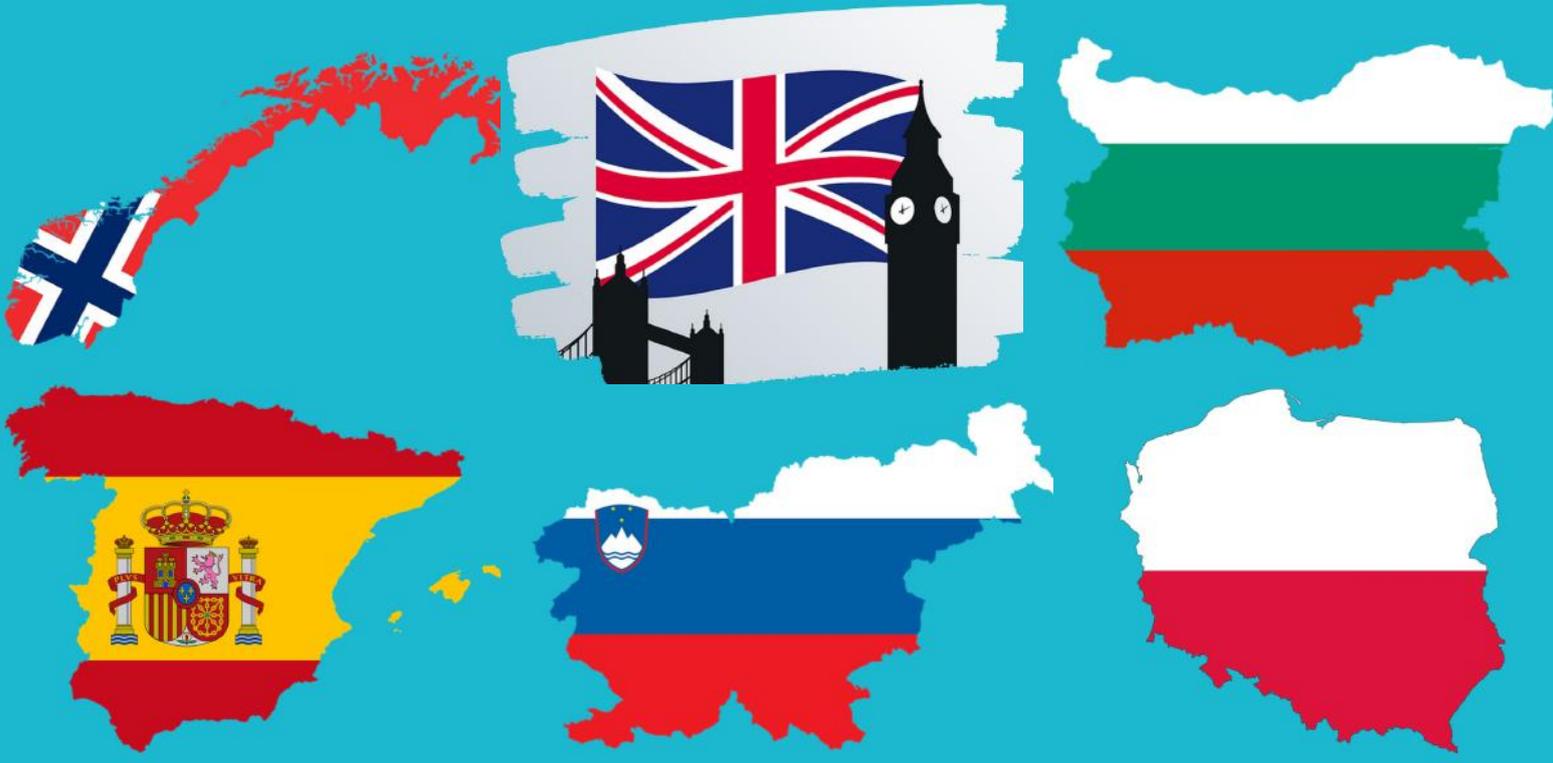
The current crisis can have a huge impact on companies. How big an impact depends strongly on the field where your company is working in. For instance, the impact in the high-tech sector is not so big, but if you look at the travel business - that's a whole different story.

The task of the entrepreneur is to look for opportunities within a crisis.

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HILDE HOEFANGELS

BUSINESS MODEL CANVAS IN TIMES OF COVID



HILDE HOEFANGELS

COVID AND THE IMPACT ON THE OSS CONSORTIUM

Since March 2020 all OSS partners have been under various (types of) lockdown, have supported waves of covid, have been working on and off from home... Some of us have lost loved ones, some of us have had the vaccine already.

All of us have noted that our stakeholders have been struggling over the past year. Our project manager Malene Aaram Vike had the very good idea to organize an extra partner meeting in which every partner could contribute what, according to them, was interesting to hear from others. We also invited colleagues from other Interreg Europe project for whom this topic is as important as it is for us.

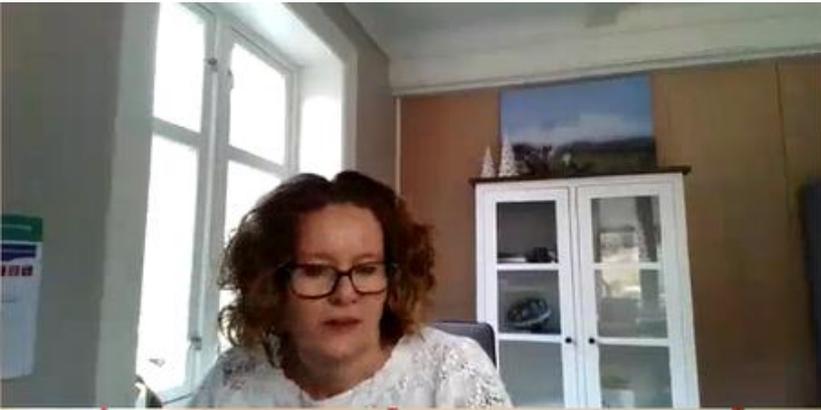
This report is a witness of that meeting and consequently contains a large variety of inputs - all equally interesting.

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The image features four hands of different skin tones (light, medium, and dark) clenching together in a fist, symbolizing global collaboration and technology. The background is a vibrant blue with large, semi-transparent numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9) and a faint grid pattern, suggesting a digital or data-driven environment. The hands are positioned in the center, with their fingers pointing towards the center, creating a sense of unity and shared purpose.

TECHNOLOGY NOW ALLOWS PEOPLE TO CONNECT ANYTIME, ANYWHERE, TO ANYONE IN THE WORLD, FROM ALMOST ANY DEVICE. THIS IS DRAMATICALLY CHANGING THE WAY PEOPLE WORK, FACILITATING 24/7 COLLABORATION WITH COLLEAGUES WHO ARE DISPERSED ACROSS TIME ZONES, COUNTRIES, AND CONTINENTS...

/MICHAEL DELL/



NORWAY IN THE TIME OF CRISIS

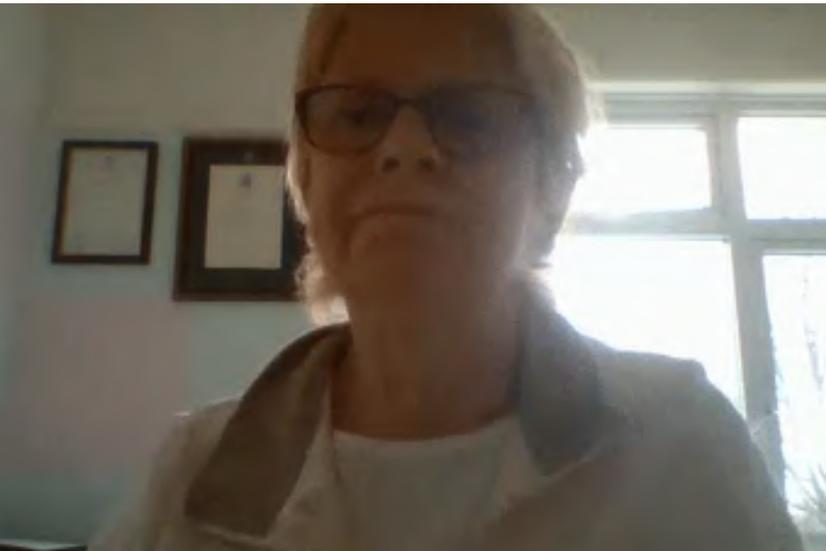
According to the data of the Norwegian Statistical Office, the decline in GDP in the last year 2020 amounted to 2.5%. This is a bad result for Norway. Compared to the rest of the continent, however, Norway is coping quite well with the crisis. The Norwegian authorities are of particular concern to rising unemployment - a phenomenon that has not been known in the Northern Kingdom for years. The situation is set to begin to change as the epidemiological situation improves when most of the country's inhabitants receive the coronavirus vaccine.

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NORWEGIAN GOOD PRACTICES RELATED TO THE COVID CRISIS

In the beginning of our meeting, our Advisory Partner presented the overall situation of the regions during the Covid pandemic. After that part, all partners presented their Good Practices. The first of them was a presentation of the Norwegian solution. The presentation was run by **ØYVIND TVETEN** - ADVISOR AT MØRE AND ROMSDAL COUNTY COUNCIL, and by **HÅVAR RISNES** - the HEAD OF STARTUP AND SCALEUP, ÅKP.

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PANDEMIC IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

In response to the public health crisis triggered by COVID-19, the UK government has resorted to relatively wide-ranging measures to slow the spread of the virus. Economic activity in the United Kingdom has decreased significantly since the start of the pandemic. For example, compared to February 2020, the UK's monthly GDP in April 2020 was lower by 25.3% and in August 2020 by 9.1%.

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ENGLISH SUPPORT DURING COVID PANDEMIC

During our Covid meeting, the English partner - WSX Enterprise, showed us the types of support that they run during the last year's Covid pandemic. Also, we hosted two representatives, who shared with us their experience: SUSAN REVERE - ENTERPRISE SPECIALIST of WSX ENTERPRISE, and Vessie N, who is a founder of Holistic Nutritionist.

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THE COVID SITUATION IN BULGARIA

According to the global media, the preventive measures taken by the Bulgarian government to limit the development of the COVID-19 pandemic cause significant losses to the Bulgarian economy. According to the economic forecasts of the European Commission, Bulgaria's GDP in 2020 will record the largest decrease in 23 years - by 7.2%. The COVID-19 pandemic and the measures taken by the Bulgarian government to counter the increase in SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus infections have significantly limited the country's economy.

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BULGARIAN CLUBHOUSE

Another Good Practice related to the Covid crisis was the presentation of Bulgarian ClubHouse. Club House is an autonomous part of Groworking Space and is a multi-functional room for formal and informal productivity events, internal and external company meetings, team building, film screenings, and other events in a contemporary environment.

[Read more...](#)



THE EFFECTS OF THE COVID 19 CRISIS IN GRANADA

According to the Spanish Entrepreneurship Observatory, which has done a report led by the University of Granada, 96 percent of Spanish entrepreneurs believe that the coronavirus crisis offers new business opportunities.

We should admit the effort and commitment of all of them in order to move forward and continue generating employment and offering their services to society. COVID-19 has affected all sectors and businesses of all sizes, but especially the youngest and smallest ones.

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THE OPPORTUNITY OF A CHALLENGE TO CHANGE IN GRANADA

The support for entrepreneurs has been one of the main objectives of the Businesses Department of Granada Provincial Council in the Office for Employment and Sustainable Development. As part of a policy instrument focused on the agreement with the different municipalities of the province, the Provincial Plan for entrepreneurs arises to support strategic sectors of the province's economy, within which the training of business culture and business administration appears as a main-line of action.

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THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC IN SLOVENIA

Slovenia responded to the COVID-19 crisis similarly to other EU countries, i.e. with extensive fiscal packages, which were aimed, on the one hand, at direct assistance to the population and, on the other hand, at assistance to the economy. The packages of measures to mitigate the consequences of the epidemic are legal packages adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia during the 2019 coronavirus disease pandemic in Slovenia in order to address the challenges and consequences of the epidemic in the country. By the beginning of March 2021, 8 such packages (PKPs) had been adopted.

[Read more...](#)

SLOVENIAN MEASURES TO FIGHT THE COVID CRISIS

Slovenia responded to the COVID-19 crisis similarly to other EU countries, i.e. with extensive fiscal packages, which were aimed, on the one hand, at direct assistance to the population and, on the other hand, at assistance to the economy. From April 2020 until February 2021, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia confirmed and issued eight anti-corona packages (PKPs), in order to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 epidemic.

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THE COVID SITUATION IN POLAND AND PODKARPACIE VOIVODESHIP

Data collected by the Statistical Office indicate that the epidemic state introduced in March 2020 and a number of restrictions related to it sharply contributed to the deterioration of the results of sold industrial production in Podkarpackie Voivodeship. In April 2020, the sold industrial production dropped significantly, both on an annual and monthly basis. In the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, sold industrial production was (in constant prices) lower by 35.0% than in April 2019, and decreased by 32.5% compared to March.

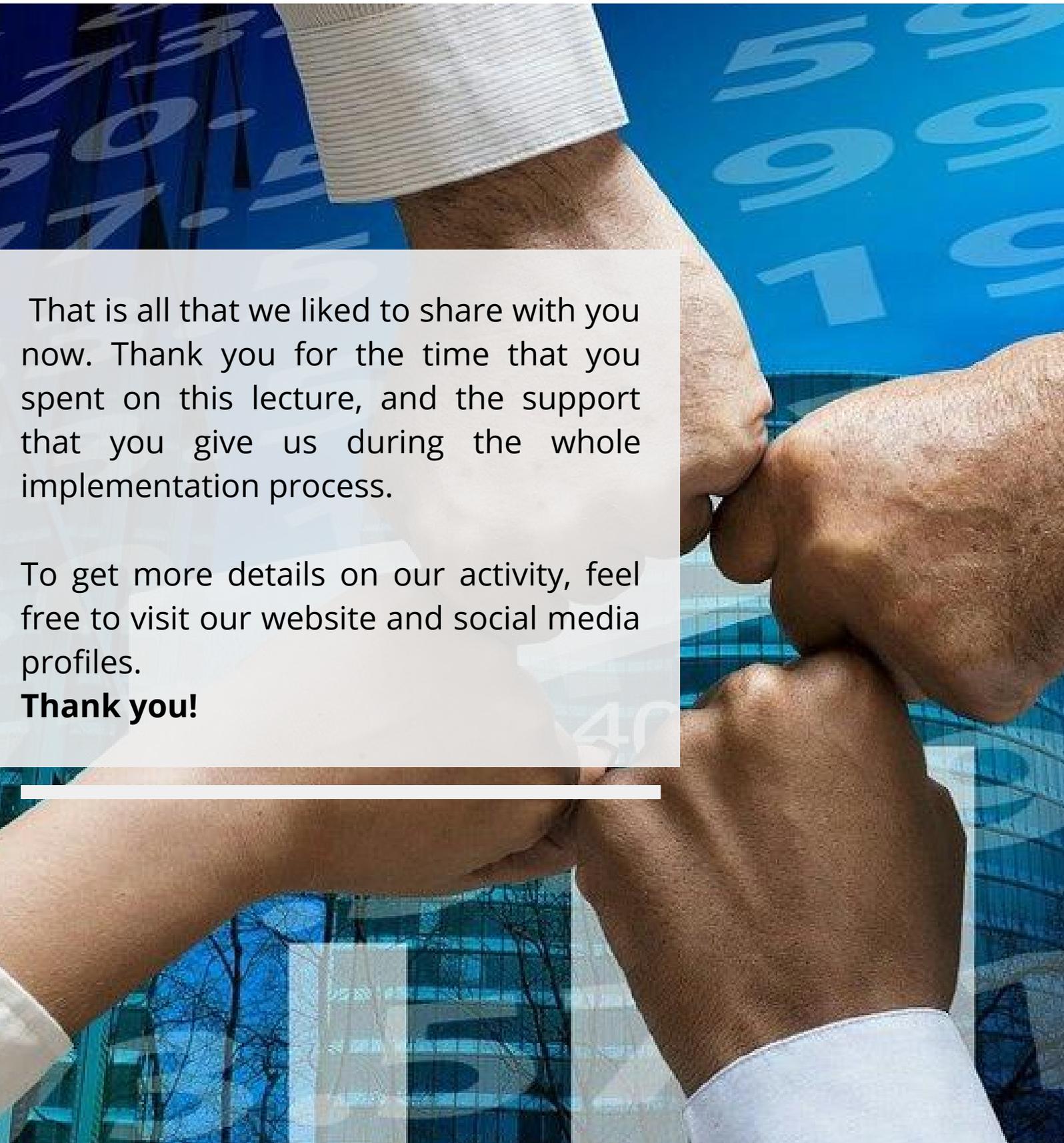
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LIQUIDITY GRANTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Polish Partner - RRDA - run a few actions to limit the negative influence of the Covid pandemic on the economy of Podkarpackie Voivodeship. One of these actions was liquidity grants which were addressed to small businesses from this area.

Grants could be awarded to entrepreneurs for projects supporting the maintenance of economic activity who, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, were in a difficult situation on the day of granting the aid (within the meaning of Article 2 (18) of the EC Regulation No 651/2014) or in a situation of a sudden shortage.

[Read more...](#)



That is all that we liked to share with you now. Thank you for the time that you spent on this lecture, and the support that you give us during the whole implementation process.

To get more details on our activity, feel free to visit our website and social media profiles.

Thank you!

