**HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND CURRENT TRENDS IN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

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***Abstract****. The aim of the study is to trace the staged, historical development of social entrepreneurship. The main aspects are the economic and social preconditions for its origin and social innovations - cooperative work, donations and social responsibility, which precede the activities of the social enterprise, as well as current trends and the legal framework in several European countries. The main task is to highlight its characteristics, developed over the years through other social innovations that are at the heart of the modern concept of social enterprise.*

***Key words****: social economy, social entrepreneurship, cooperative work, donations, social responsibility, target groups, disadvantaged people*