8.6.2016 Silver eEconomy Development Meeting in Ljubljana

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**Silver Economy – Chamber of Craft and Small Business of Slovenia Perspective**

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The Chamber of Craft and Small Business of Slovenia (the Chamber) is an umbrella organisation comprising the craft and small business chamber system jointly with 62 regional chambers of craft and small business (regional chambers). The Chamber and the regional chambers are independent legal entities managed on a voluntary basis by craftsmen – officials (functionaries).

The Chamber acts according to its mission - it supports and promotes the traditional values of its members: hard work, diligence, preservation of tradition, honesty, honour, ethics, quality and excellence, knowledge and innovation. The Chamber advocates preserving the tradition and features of small business. It provides for an equal role of the regional chambers and offers full expert support and assistance to its members.

The key role in the Chamber is played by professional sections because they represent the foundation for linking craftsmen.

The Chamber uses its efforts in Slovenia and Europe to improve the conditions for doing business in craft, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. Craftsmen and their chamber have become an equal partner in the dialogue with the government and trade unions.

Tradition and experience are very important to many activities in the craft sector and, realizing this, the Chamber endeavours to promote cooperation with the silver generation. Some of the possible common areas of cooperation between the silver generation and the Chamber are:

- Transfer of knowledge and skills is of great importance to many craft activities and a cooperation among generations can be very successful in combining a new know-how of the youth and the rich experience of the silver generation

- Protection of the art&craft can be only achieved by the transfer of skills to the young generation. Additionally, this task allows the older people to stay creative and continue with their activities after their retirement.

- The Chamber endeavours to achieve a legislative support to the retired entrepreneurs to enjoy full pension rights, even when they continue working as active entrepreneurs (they would continue paying taxes). This is an important step towards an active life of the silver generation.

The Chamber is open to a good cooperation with the silver generation.