



EntreComp to create Youth Employability and Social value

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NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The EYES project is a collaborative effort between six countries in the EU and southern Meda. Its primary objective is to unlock the potential of social entrepreneurship and inspire younger generations to pursue it as a viable career path.

By taking a youth work approach, EYES aims to address both youth employment and societal challenges simultaneously. Through this project, we strive to equip NGOs and youth workers with the tools and knowledge necessary to promote social entrepreneurship and sustainable growth among young people in the Euromed context.

Ultimately, our goal is to empower young individuals with the skills to create, manage, and run successful social enterprises. By doing so, we hope to foster social cohesion and inclusive growth within their own societies while simultaneously providing viable employment alternatives for disadvantaged groups.

EYES is based on the Entrecomp model, and we are confident that our efforts will help pave the way for a brighter future for both the youth and society as a whole.

Our specific objectives are:

1. To map the needs, ideas, tools, and best practices related to social entrepreneurship in Mediterranean and EU countries.
2. To develop new educational models that provide young people with the necessary skills and knowledge to create social enterprises, as well as training for youth activists and workers to act as multipliers.
3. To support the creation of local and online cross-sectoral networks working towards the creation of new social impact ventures.
4. To strengthen Euromed cooperation to address common youth challenges such as unemployment, migration, and post-COVID reconstruction.

What's new?

Together with our partners, we have recently released the first part of our "[Training Manual](#)," which contains all the information that we have gathered during our desk research, the questionnaires we distributed, and the focus groups that each organization held in their countries.

Much of the training manual's content was gathered after discussing our findings during the International Seminar that was held in Cairo, Egypt, from the 27th of January until the 2nd of February.

Let's take a closer look at the whole process we followed for developing "*Training Manual*":

1. Desk research on existing tools

Each partner in the EYES project carried out independent desk research on existing best practices and tools related to social entrepreneurship in their respective countries.

The aim of this research was to collect a minimum of 30 best practices, with each country contributing at least 5. This research was an important first step in our efforts to gather information on the current state of social entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean and EU countries.

By pooling our findings, we hope to identify common trends and best practices that can be shared with youth workers and NGOs across the region, and incorporated into our training manual.

2. Questionnaires delivery

In the first part of our research, each partner in the EYES project delivered at least 20 questionnaires to assess the needs of potential participants, specifically young people, in their respective countries.

With XUL's initial questionnaire design, each partner translated the questionnaire and delivered it either in paper or online form. The total number of questionnaires collected exceeded 120.

After collecting the responses, each partner created a report outlining their findings. This process was critical in helping us to understand the specific needs of young people in the Mediterranean and EU countries, which will help us to develop effective training materials and programs tailored to their needs.

3. Focus groups

As part of the research process, each partner in the EYES project conducted two focus groups, each involving four individuals representing different sectors - a young person, a social entrepreneur, a policy maker, and a youth worker.

The discussions in these focus groups centered around social entrepreneurship, covering topics such as its impact on society, what is needed to create a successful social enterprise, and how to support it using known practices.

XUL provided a reporting model to guide partners in documenting and summarizing their findings from the focus groups. The insights gathered from these focus groups were valuable in shaping the content of the training manual and identifying areas of focus for the project.

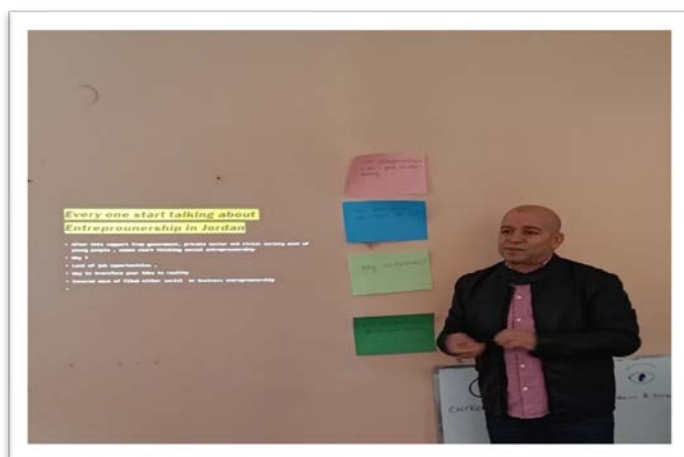
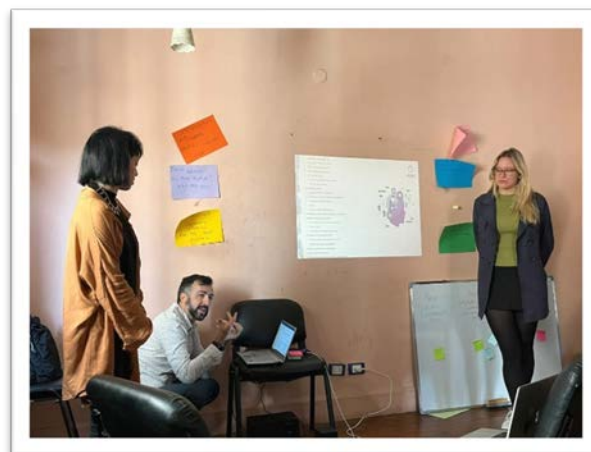
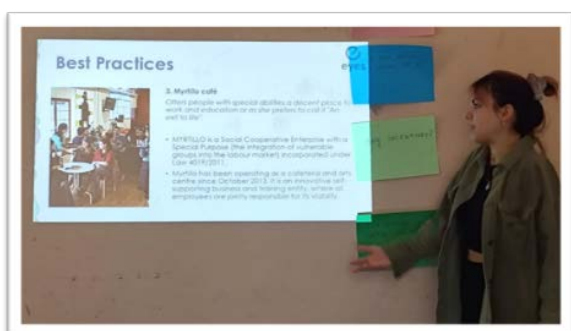
4. International seminar

An International Seminar was held in Cairo, Egypt, from the 27th of January until the 2nd of February. The seminar was used to compile all the research's findings and to organize the following work package, which includes the creation of training tools. 20 participants were

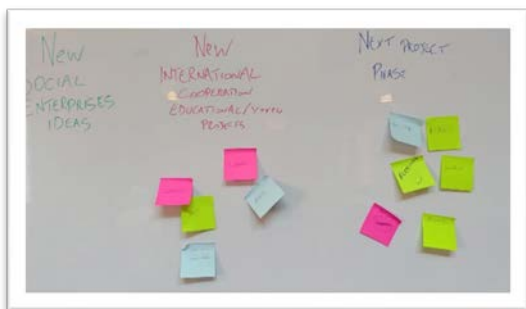
involved from all partner countries, including social entrepreneurs, youth workers, volunteers, trainers and people who are interested in social entrepreneurship.

In the seminar, the findings and outcomes reached through research were discussed, and the first section of the study handbook was elaborated. During the first days of the Seminar, there were sessions for participants to meet each other and familiarize with the project and its goals. Also, the beginning of the Seminar served as an introduction and overview of Social Entrepreneurship and the aspects it entails. It was the basis for attendees to proceed with presenting the National Context of Social Entrepreneurship and Best Practices compiled by every partner country.

Within the Research deliverables, the results of the Survey in every country investigating the potential for social entrepreneurship were presented. Moreover, the participants refined and finalized the reports with the results of the focus groups that were conducted in every country and concerned the investigation of Social Entrepreneurship with targeted audience that have experience in the field.



The rest of the Seminar days were devoted to the planning of the next steps in the project. The participants had brainstorming sessions for each future step of the program, and they added their input to the program. Presentations on ideas about the Manual on the State of Art of Social Entrepreneurship were prepared and correspondence to training resources that will be needed for the next Work Package addressing the development of training tools took place.



The International Seminar could not lack Intercultural Events, visits to local Cultural Heritage spots and a study visit to a Local Social Enterprise in Egypt.



5. Training manual

XUL, together with the EYES project partners, collected all the data gathered during the desk research, questionnaires, and focus groups to create the first part of the training manual.

These research findings are an essential part of the manual, which will soon be translated into our partners' languages.

This training manual will serve as a comprehensive guide for youth workers and NGOs on social entrepreneurship, providing necessary skills and knowledge to young people and activists to develop social enterprises. It will also support the creation of cross-sectorial

networks and reinforce Euromed cooperation to provide answers to common youth challenges, such as unemployment, migration, and post-COVID reconstruction.

Some of our main findings that can be found in the training manual:

1. The gender gap in social entrepreneurship is found to be smaller than in traditional entrepreneurship, but women tend to be involved in social entrepreneurship with a more pronounced social orientation.
2. Social entrepreneurship is associated with young people, and those aged 20 to 34 are found to have a greater representation of social entrepreneurs.
3. Social entrepreneurs aim to create social value, and their dominant objectives are social.
4. Measuring the impact of social entrepreneurship is an unresolved issue.
5. Social entrepreneurship faces challenges of regulation, access to resources, and the tension between creating social value and capturing value.
6. The lack of institutional support is seen as a limitation but also as a potential.
7. There is the need to consolidate a practice based on evidence in training and support in social entrepreneurship.

Don't miss out on learning more about social entrepreneurship and the findings of the EYES project so far. You can [download the Training Manual](#) to learn more.

What's coming?

Finalization of the second part of the training manual: The second part of the manual will provide information and activities related to social entrepreneurship, aimed at educating young people on becoming social entrepreneurs. This part of the manual will include tips, workshops, and tools to enhance related competences. The manual will be available in both online and printed versions, and will be translated into six languages, namely English, Spanish, Italian, Greek, French, and Arabic.

Creation of the webinars: These online events will allow us to reach a wider audience and provide them with useful information on social entrepreneurship. The webinars will be conducted in English and divided among partners to realize them. Topics will cover essential aspects such as leadership, solidarity, business ethics, human resources, and more.

International training course: The international training course will provide educators, trainers, and youth workers with a comprehensive understanding of the EYES training methodology. The course will equip participants with the necessary tools and techniques to conduct pilot workshops at the local level, where they can provide young people with the skills and competences needed to build their own social enterprises. The training of trainers is a crucial component of the EYES project as it ensures the sustainability and scalability of the project's impact, enabling it to reach a broader audience beyond the initial pilot phase.

Capacity building actions at local level (workshops): After completing the Training of Trainers program, the trained individuals will organize local workshops to evaluate the effectiveness of the training they have received.

Each partner will host four workshops, lasting one day and involving ten young people interested in social entrepreneurship. The workshops will also include social entrepreneurs and policy makers as additional stakeholders.

Mapping and creation of local and international networking: The EYES project aims to create and strengthen cross-sectoral networks to tackle common youth challenges. One of the ways to achieve this is through the mapping and creation of local and international networking. The local workshops will identify the interest of local youth and stakeholders in joining local networks.

Additionally, a virtual platform will be created to connect participants from different countries and allow them to exchange ideas and good practices. The platform will serve as a forum for discussion on various issues and ideas, promoting collaboration and networking among the participants.

Final words

Thank you for reading our newsletter and staying up to date with the latest developments of the EYES project. We hope you found the information provided interesting and informative.

Stay tuned for more updates and progress on our project as we continue to work towards our goal of empowering and educating young people on social entrepreneurship. Don't forget to check out [social media channels](#) for more information and resources.

PARTNERS

