

## **Social Enterprises' Sustainability Tools**

The EMPOWER project aims to support young entrepreneurs and promote sustainable social enterprises. It is creating learning partnerships between businesses and youth programs. The project provides training materials focused on helping young people identify challenges and seize opportunities in emerging markets. These materials include modern and proven tools and methods to help entrepreneurs develop effective strategies for their social enterprises. Additionally, a simulation game is being developed to help young entrepreneurs practice integrating these tools into real-life scenarios. Through the project, young people gain knowledge and a critical understanding of social entrepreneurship.

### **The Power of Social Entrepreneurship**

Social entrepreneurship is a rapidly growing sector combining business acumen with a desire to positively impact the world. These innovative ventures are driven by a mission to solve social, cultural, or environmental issues while also making a profit. The EMPOWER project is at the forefront of this movement, providing young entrepreneurs with the tools and training they need to succeed. From identifying opportunities in emerging markets to developing effective strategies, EMPOWER is helping to shape the future of social entrepreneurship.

### **News on the project's progress**

#### **LTTA in Ruse, Bulgaria**

Young people with an interest or experience in social entrepreneurship from partner countries came together in Ruse, Bulgaria for a training event called Learning, Teaching, Training Activity (LTTA). They were selected by project partners from Bulgaria, Italy, Portugal, Greece, and Cyprus. The host organization, Bulgarian-Romanian Chamber of Commerce, designed a 3-day program with two main goals: to train young entrepreneurs and youth workers on the project's learning resources, and to evaluate the project's quality and content for improvement.

During the LTTA, participants gained firsthand experience with the startup environment in Bulgaria, shared information about their own countries, and discussed European trends with representatives from other nations. They also had the opportunity to explore and discuss three project results: a Training Package for Sustainability in Social Enterprises, a Social Enterprises Simulation Game, and a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) for fostering social entrepreneurship.

According to participant feedback, the most exciting part of the event was the Social Enterprises Simulation Game, in which they actively participated. The LTTA served as a platform to establish a community of practice, which proved to be vital for the project's quality and highly beneficial for all participants.



## Current status

### Policy paper: Building a sustainable social enterprise sector

The EMPOWER project is working on developing a Policy Paper for the social enterprise sector. This paper aims to provide valuable insights based on real-world experiences of social enterprises. Its goal is to help young entrepreneurs and individuals tackle challenges by generating innovative solutions and recommendations. The Policy Paper targets both practitioners and policymakers, serving as a comprehensive resource.

To gather valuable input, the consortium is conducting focus groups with experts and practitioners in social entrepreneurship from each partner country. The insights gained from these focus groups will form the basis for the policy recommendations, with the ultimate objective of empowering the sustainability of the social enterprise sector in the partner countries. This Policy Paper is part of the EMPOWER project's Result 4, titled "Building a sustainable social enterprise sector."

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