



Social SME Academy – Press release n.2



## Social SME Academy

**The European project that supports young people to start their own social enterprise.**

After two years, the European project "**Social SME Academy**", funded by the European Commission within the Erasmus+ Programme, is entering its final phase. The project coordinator, the UK company **Bridging to the Future**, has coordinated, with excellent results, the activities of the five partners from different European countries: **CEEIM** - European Business And Innovation Center Of Murcia (Spain), **SAN** - Społeczna Akademia Nauk (Poland), **C4G** - Consulting And Training Network (Portugal) and **JO Consulting** (Italy).

The project provides **practical tools** and useful knowledge for all **young people aged 18** and above who want to approach the world of **social entrepreneurship**, increasing their interest in this field, with the aim of **revitalizing communities and reinvigorate local and national economies**.

In this sense, last March, **free training sessions** were held by the partners in their respective countries, each aimed at **10 young aspiring entrepreneurs** from all the countries of the partnership who sent their spontaneous application on the project portal, describing their idea of **social business**, in order to be selected for participation in the training. Not only the training session, full of **practical activities and group work** on social entrepreneurship issues, was relevant for the participants, but also the post-training phase resulted of high importance. During the following months, in fact, the partners made themselves available for further coaching sessions aimed at supporting aspiring entrepreneurs in the start-up phase of their activities.



What emerged from the feedback left by the participants is that the project was an excellent opportunity to develop some practical tools, such as the **manual of the young social entrepreneur**, the **self-assessment test of their entrepreneurial skills** or the **guide for trainers**, all **available free of charge on the project website <https://www.socialsmeacademy.eu/>** to be used when planning their own business idea.

In fact, young people are often discouraged from starting a new project because they do not know where to start from, whom to involve, where to find funds and whether their project idea will actually be profitable in the long run. Within the project **10 short video tutorials** have been created in which the mentor of the Social SME Academy gives voice to the essential points developed in the guide, providing **useful advice to visitors** and **presenting interesting case studies**.

The partners involved are already discussing possible future outputs for the project and how to continue and improve the activity started with the Social SME Academy. For all the updates you can follow their activities in various social channels such as **Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter**.

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