

Entrepreneurial Skills for Social Sciences



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for Social Sciences



Newsletter 4



Closing Remarks & Note of Thanks

As we come to the end of the **Entrepreneurial Skills for Social Sciences (ESSS) Project**, we reflect on the transformative journey this initiative has been. The project has successfully achieved its core objectives of developing innovative tools to foster entrepreneurial competencies, enhance critical thinking, and provide tailored training to social scientists. By doing so, we have empowered participants to envision themselves not only as researchers but as **social entrepreneurs** capable of making a tangible impact in society.

Through collaborative efforts, workshops, and resource creation, the project has equipped participants with practical skills and a mindset geared toward innovation and resilience. These competencies are essential for thriving in today's dynamic labor market and for addressing societal challenges through entrepreneurial approaches.

We are confident that the knowledge, tools, and networks cultivated through the ESSS Project will continue to serve as a catalyst for change, enabling participants to navigate and excel in the professional landscape. As the project officially closes, its legacy lies in the empowered individuals who are now better prepared to take on leadership roles and create sustainable solutions as **social scientists and entrepreneurs**.

A heartfelt thank you to our partners, trainers, participants, and supporters who made this vision a reality. Together, we have taken meaningful strides toward bridging the gap between academia and the labor market, and we look forward to seeing the positive ripple effects of this initiative in the years to come.

Let this be the beginning of an entrepreneurial journey for all those who have been a part of ESSS.

Kind regards,
ESSS Project team

Takeaway from the ESSS training

The ESSS training program included a mix of theoretical knowledge and practical activities, ensuring a hands-on experience for participants. The training programme was implemented in 4 countries and successfully achieved its goals of enhancing educators' capacity to teach social entrepreneurship. By equipping participants with innovative tools and practical knowledge, this initiative has paved the way for fostering a new generation of socially conscious, entrepreneurial thinkers.

As we wrap up this enriching 50-hour training programme on social enterprises and social entrepreneurship, it's the perfect moment to reflect on the key lessons and insights we've gained:

The Power of Social Enterprises

We learned how social enterprises combine the principles of business with a mission for social good. Through real-world examples, we explored the transformative impact these ventures have on communities, addressing challenges with innovative solutions.

The Role of Educators in Driving Change

Teachers have the unique opportunity to inspire the next generation of social entrepreneurs. By integrating entrepreneurial thinking into the classroom, we can equip students with the skills and confidence to create meaningful change in their own communities.

A Practical Approach to Learning

The programme's learning-by-doing methodology showed us how hands-on, interactive activities can be powerful tools for teaching complex concepts like business modeling, fundraising, and marketing for social ventures.

Building Entrepreneurial Competencies

From understanding legal frameworks to developing business models and fundraising strategies, we gained a comprehensive toolkit to foster entrepreneurial competencies in students.

The Importance of Collaboration and Communication

Social entrepreneurship thrives on collaboration. The training emphasized how effective communication and marketing can amplify the reach and impact of a social enterprise, connecting it with the right audience and resources.

This training has empowered us as educators to step into the role of facilitators for positive social impact. Trainees saw themselves as changemakers, capable of addressing real-world challenges through innovative ideas. We're excited to take these lessons forward and bring the spirit of social entrepreneurship into our daily practice and beyond!



Training implementation



Learning content

ESSS Course and Expectations

Principles in Social Entrepreneurship

Legal Frameworks for Social Enterprises

Profile of Social Entrepreneurs

The Business Model: Creating a Social Business Model

Fundraising and Financing

Marketing and Communication

More Information

<http://entresss.eu/OnlineLearning/>

Participants' evaluation of the ESSS training

Participants' positive evaluation indicates that the training successfully met its objectives of equipping social scientists with essential knowledge and practical skills in Ideas and Opportunities, Resources, and Action within the field of social entrepreneurship. By increasing their confidence and competence in these areas, participants felt better prepared to not only pursue their own ventures but also to guide others in becoming agents of social change.

More precisely, interviews with participants highlighted the following:

Increased Awareness of Opportunities

Participants reported a stronger ability to identify societal challenges and turn them into entrepreneurial opportunities. This highlights the success of the training in fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Confidence in Resource Utilization

Many participants noted their improved understanding of available resources and how to mobilize them effectively. This demonstrates the value of providing practical examples and tools during the training.

Enhanced Action-Oriented Skills

Positive feedback about participants' ability to develop business models, plan marketing strategies, and secure funding indicates that the hands-on modules were impactful and actionable.

Networking and Collaboration

Trainees emphasized the importance of building partnerships and networks, showing that the collaborative activities in the training were effective in preparing them for real-world challenges.

Holistic Understanding of Social Entrepreneurship

A significant takeaway was that participants now see social entrepreneurship as a dynamic process involving creativity, resourcefulness, and execution. The clarity brought by the training has made this pathway more accessible and achievable.

Empowerment for Real-World Application

Many social scientists felt more confident about transitioning from theory to practice, proving that the training successfully bridged the gap between academic knowledge and entrepreneurial action.

These positive outcomes reinforce the importance of integrating practical activities, case studies, and collaborative learning into training programs. As participants take these lessons forward, we anticipate seeing impactful contributions to society through their entrepreneurial ventures.

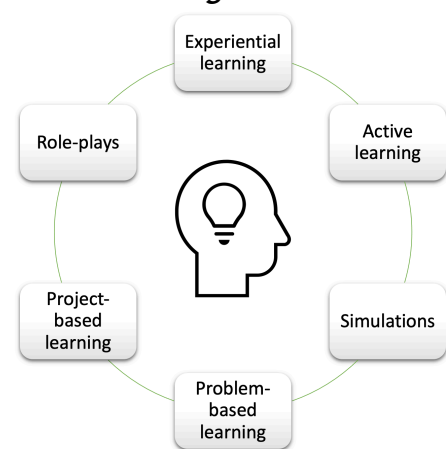
Pre-Post Evaluation of ESSS training

The Case of Greece

Overall scores of knowledge and self-perceived skills in applying social entrepreneurship principles and methods in daily practice, improved after the ESSS training: the lowest score prior to the training was 47% whereas the highest score was 80% with an average score of 69.5%.

After the training, the lowest score was 61% and the highest score rose to 99% with an average score of 86.5%. These results indicate that the training was quite successful in terms of passing on knowledge and bridging the gap between the theoretical framework and practice.

Training methods



ASSESSMENT TOOL

Name / Surname:	No:
Date:	Country: Greece

Please circle the correct answer.

QUESTIONS	ANSWER
1 Social entrepreneurs are change agents and creative innovators in the social sector	TRUE / FALSE
2 Social Enterprises aim to provide benefits to society / individuals (circle correct answer).	
3 Social enterprises are primarily focusing on creating revenue rather than facing a social problem	TRUE / FALSE
4 Social Entrepreneurship should: a) be driven by social mission, b) be innovative, c) not make profit, d) benefit individual investors	
5 Social entrepreneurship should focus on community development through action(s) organised only by social scientists	TRUE / FALSE
6 Social entrepreneurship is an entrepreneurial activity with social purpose	TRUE / FALSE
7 Social entrepreneurs could be anyone who shares the values of	TRUE / FALSE


A final conference in Cyprus to discuss the ESSS outcomes

The final ESSS conference was held on the 18th of October 2024, in Nicosia, in the presence of many students, scientific collaborators and professionals from the field of social sciences. Partners had the opportunity to present developments in the field of social entrepreneurship, the challenges and the future perspectives. Through the conference, good practices were presented and highlighted by the different countries. Innovative practices were also presented by the ESSS trainees in the form of group projects.

Final conference in Cyprus



Greek project presented in the final ESSS conference



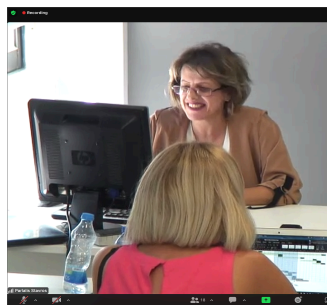
Preventing Youth Violence in an Urban Community in Heraklio city, Crete
Establishing a Social Enterprise for Positive Change
Presented by Loliou Stavroula and Toraki Marina

Final Conference of the ESSS project
18 October 2024
Frederick University, Nicosia



2 The Issue of Youth Violence

Juvenile violence in Greece has reached unprecedented levels in 2024, with over 9,000 recorded incidents, marking a 47% increase compared to last year. Crimes involving bodily harm surged by 73%, while offenses against personal liberty and sexual freedom rose by 38% and 89%, respectively. Crete is one of the most affected regions, facing growing insecurity, social disruption, and youth trauma. This trend underscores the need for innovative solutions, like social enterprises, to offer youth positive alternatives and strengthen community resilience.



Participants' experiences from the ESSS project



“It was a unique experience for me. The Project gave me the opportunity to see how a social enterprise can be formed as a whole. There are many steps along the way, from grasping the idea and putting it in paper in a structured and sustainable way. The training broadened my view and brought into my attention obstacles I could not foresee. I hope that we might actually implement this project with the rest of my team.”

-Amalia, social scientist from Greece



I was involved in the project and I had the opportunity to learn about new approaches about social entrepreneurship around Europe.

- Cristina Vasileiou, social scientist from Cyprus



Through the project I was able to help specific vulnerable groups with whom I am in a constant effort to support.

-Konstantinos Papakonstantinou, social scientist from Cyprus

Final Considerations

Social entrepreneurship has the potential to redefine how we address societal challenges. But to achieve its promise, we must create an enabling environment where individuals and communities feel empowered to trust, participate in, and benefit from these transformative ventures. With the right institutional support and collective effort, social entrepreneurship can be a powerful tool for building a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future.



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