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Social Leader Forum 2016

Social Entrepreneurship as a tool for integration of vulnerable groups into the job market



Creative Development Center in cooperation with CRISP e.V and with financial support of Black Sea trust and Erasmus + is recruiting representatives from Public, NGO and (Social) Business sectors, coming from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia, and Turkey to participate in the Social Leader Forum 2016 in order to discuss and exchange on the issue of social entrepreneurship and its role in integration of vulnerable groups into society, especially when it comes to the labor market. As experience shows, there is an urgent need for all sectors to combine their strength and experiences in order to tackle the issue.

Project Description

The Social Leader Forum 2016 is the continuation of the previous activities from 2013, 2014 and 2015 with the new focus on social entrepreneurship, as well as on an impact analysis of actions taken. The Forum offers young professionals dealing with these issues from the participating

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countries, a unique communication, learning and exchange platform on topics of social innovations and cross-sectorial collaboration concerning the issue of employability, social entrepreneurship and social innovations as a tool of integration of vulnerable groups. This includes questions of special trainings for youth (for example vocational trainings, skill-trainings, exchange with practitioners, youth entrepreneurship trainings) reaching disadvantage youth groups and be aware of their specific needs and challenges, prevent brain drain, dealing with the social challenges of labor migration, etc. This year we will also have a particular focus on conducting impact analysis, where the participants will assess the pros and cons of different actions and projects and will share their experiences on which projects had which level of impact.

With the combined experiences from all participating countries enriched by inputs and discussions with guest speakers, new ways of tackling these issues should be discussed, evaluated and transferred.

Thereby we promote the interdisciplinary, cross-sector and cross-border dialogue and facilitate sharing of best practice of how to develop key competences for young people, (social) entrepreneurship skills and to tackle the described challenges with innovative approaches.

During the kick-off meeting the participants will also plan cross-sector and/or cross-border projects and establish new cooperation. After the first meeting in Georgia, implementation phase in following where the projects ideas are put in practice. Therefore, the Social Leader Forum 2016 will become an incubator for collaborative project ideas. For these projects, the participants receive a seed funding and the projects should be implemented before the Forum in Istanbul, Turkey, in December.

This forum will then serve as an evaluation meeting, where the participants present their projects, share their experiences and evaluate the local activities. The meeting also focuses on further plan a sustainable development of cooperation and building stable partnership.

Expected outcomes

- a) The participants will get a better understanding of different approaches towards the issue of youth employability, social entrepreneurship, and related fields and how each of the sectors respond to the challenges in their own and other countries. By this, the participants will increase their understanding of other sectors and develop mutual trust.



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- b) The participants critically deal with the topic of impact assessment, assess the impact of previous actions and learn how to plan and implement projects with a big impact as well as analyze the impact of different funding strategies.
- c) The participants will get new impulses and innovative ideas for their work from each other in the professional exchange and from the guest speakers, both cross-sector and cross-border wise. By this, they will learn to think "out-of-the-box" and think beyond their usual working styles.
- d) The participants will develop together new tools, approaches and projects of how best to address the problem of youth employability and the related fields.

Participants

Concerning the problem of employability and related challenges, there is an urgent need for all sectors to combine their strength and experiences in order to tackle the issue. Therefore, we are aiming for participants working in public administration, (social) business, NGOs, universities, think tanks and other spheres of professional engagement concerning the issue of youth unemployment, labor migration, creating income opportunities for disadvantage groups (rural

youth, IDPs, women, minorities), career development for young people, social entrepreneurship and are interested in cross-sector cooperation and social innovation. They should have a strong interest in exchanging on best practice and the developing and learning of new ways of working on the issue and to think "out-of-the-box". We are aiming for a balanced representation of all sectors (civil society, (social) entrepreneurs and public institutions like universities, city departments and public and private (professional/vocational) educational centers). The participants will be selected by a joint jury from all partner organizations. Partners from Germany as well as from other countries will provide expert workshops for all participants.

There is no age limit, but a minimum age of 18.



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In order to reach program goals the project foresees the following activities:

❖ **Kick off meeting – September 29-October 5, Georgia.**

The participants meet to exchange on their expertise in order to develop networks for future cooperation. The participants will get input on building cross-sector/cross-border cooperation and plan the next steps, which is the implementation of local initiatives in the region. The meeting is visited by representatives of public as well as business sector.

❖ **Local activities: - October-November**

The participants develop and conduct project ideas that are either cross border or cross sector. The project ideas should include further plan for sustainable development of cooperation. They get seed funding from the program in order to implement the projects before the Forum.

❖ **Forum – December 4-11, Istanbul, Turkey**

During the Forum the participants present their projects, evaluate their local activities and meet representatives of other sectors. This meeting is mainly focused on presenting local actions, for their further development and building partnerships. We plan to invite important actors from business, CSO and public sectors, who are potential supporters of such initiatives. Besides that, the final meeting will include an Alumni forum, in order to connect new fellows with alumni of previous years!

If you are interested to become part of the project, please fill in the application form online till September 10.

<https://goo.gl/forms/aU3BB84VsB6zpfqy2>

All expenses are covered including travel and accommodation. There is **NO** participation Fee.

Working language is English.

All questions shall be addressed to: teonadalak@gmail.com/+995593197219

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