



Co-funded by
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You SI Net Reload
Erasmus Plus Virtual Exchange

European and Mediterranean framework for social innovation*

*Learn how to engage in Euro-Mediterranean action while
remaining vigilant and consistent with your intentions!*

August 2025

*WP6 on the YouSINet training package

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Training on European and Mediterranean framework for social innovation

Training Objectives

As part of the Youth Social Innovation Network Reload (You SI Net Reload), this course aims to foster awareness and a critical mindset toward current Euro-Mediterranean policies. Designed especially for practitioners and changemakers—particularly from the younger generations— from Spain, Italy, Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia, Egypt and other Mediterranean countries, it seeks to strike a balance between understanding the opportunities and tools these policies provide, and nurturing a vigilant, critical spirit.

At its core, the course encourages a sense of generational self-determination, empowering participants to question, reinterpret, and actively shape the future of the region.

In this context, concepts like social innovation and entrepreneurship for positive social impact are not just relevant—they are essential tools for transformation, even in the face of the significant challenges confronting the Mediterranean today.

You SI Net Reload is an innovative pilot project aimed at fostering social innovation and entrepreneurship among young people! The primary goal of You SI Net Reload is to facilitate timely, relevant, and effective communication among all project stakeholders, thereby creating a network of empowered and connected young innovators and entrepreneurs.

The course offers a dynamic and collaborative platform to explore strategies and tools needed to address contemporary social challenges. From problem analysis to creating innovative solutions, it promotes a holistic approach integrating creativity, critical thinking, and community engagement.

Structure, Schedule and Duration

E-learning | Online The course will be delivered online using a mix of lectures, group discussions, case studies, practical workshops, and networking activities. Each session will feature expert presentations, followed by interactive activities and group work.

5 modules, each delivered in a 3-hour online session (15 hours total) 6:00-9:00 PM CET/CEST

(5.00-8.00pm Tunisia and Morocco / 7.00-10.00pm Jordan and Egypt)

Proposed dates: September 18, 25 and October 2, 9, 16 (Thursday).

Participants profile

Ideal candidates will:

- Live in one of the following countries: Egypt, Italy, Jordan, Morocco, Spain or Tunisia.
- Possess a proficient level of English to actively engage in discussions, workshops, and collaborative activities throughout the training.

- Be confident in their IT skills, as they will be expected to navigate and engage with digital platforms for the training sessions.
- Have prior experience or a strong interest in social innovation, **in particular toward current Euro-Mediterranean policies.**
- Be motivated to collaborate **and to explore potential scenarios related to innovation and social entrepreneurship in the Euro-Mediterranean region**

This training is ideal for those who are eager to understand the opportunities and tools provided by the Euro-Mediterranean policies and related to social innovation and social entrepreneurship.

Session content

Structured into five modules, it lasts a total of 15 hours, divided into five sessions (3 hours each). The general contents are:

1. Me and the Mediterranean

This introductory module serves as a necessary premise that places participants at the center of the broader context. It primarily addresses the question: *Why should we engage in actions related to innovation and social entrepreneurship within the Euro-Mediterranean space?* The session provides an overview of the current landscape, highlighting tensions, contradictions, setbacks, paradoxes, and ongoing challenges. By the end of the module, participants are expected to develop a critical awareness of whether—and why—they should become involved in planned processes of change related to innovation and social entrepreneurship.

2. Euro-Mediterranean Policies on Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship

This second module offers a concise mapping of current policy trends and available frameworks related to innovation and social entrepreneurship. It includes the sharing of information sources and direct access to key documents underpinning these policies at the Euro-Mediterranean level. Reference will be made to EU and European Commission policies, the Union for the Mediterranean, and other international frameworks promoted by the UN and other global institutions. Examples include the *New Action Plan on the Social Economy* adopted by the European Commission, the *2011 Social Business Initiative*, the *2016 Start-up and Scale-up Initiative*, the establishment of the *EU Social Economy Gateway*, and the *European Competence Centre for Social Innovation*.

3. Available Tools

This third module aims to equip participants with practical knowledge about the main tools available to access resources and either start or further develop initiatives in the field of social innovation and entrepreneurship. Transnational and cross-border cooperation within the Euro-Mediterranean space will be addressed, with a particular focus on the 17 active Interreg programs. Additional thematic initiatives will be presented, especially in sectors such as agriculture, energy, and the environment. Participants will also learn about potential funding opportunities, such as microcredit schemes under the *Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)* programme, along with compliance with the *European Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision*. Another key topic will be mobility opportunities for aspiring young entrepreneurs, such as the *Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs* programme.

4. Action Margins

The fourth module is the most hands-on and practical part of the course. Participants will tackle specific challenges and engage in defining intervention strategies and writing project proposals related to innovation and social entrepreneurship. This workshop-style session is designed to initiate a co-design and project development process that can be further supported through follow-up mentoring activities after the in-class phase.

5. Futures and Futurology (a Bold Attempt)

The final module aims to make the knowledge acquired during the training—not only in this course but in others as well—more sustainable and future-oriented. Participants will be encouraged to project current trends forward and explore potential scenarios: *What will Europe and the Mediterranean look like in 10–20 years? What plausible futures can we imagine?* Through guided reflections, participants will map out realistic trajectories to anchor their motivation and actions within a medium-term time horizon. This module will also include workshop activities and the production of outputs that may feed into future project development.

Training Team & Contacts

The training team is composed of 2 experienced trainers from Italy and Tunisia, Rosario Sapienza and Khaoula Behi.

Rosario Sapienza holds a master's degree in Socio-anthropology with a focus on change management and the transition of entities and organisations. He has over 25 years of professional experience in policy analysis, strategic planning, research and coordination of complementarities and synergies to promote innovative strategies and Mediterranean regional policies. Rosario has in depth knowledge of cross-border programmes having contributed to the closure of the 2007-2014 Italy – Tunisia ENPI CBC programme and at the same time coordinated the launch of the ENI CBC 2014-2020 period. Since 2014 he has been the head of the Joint Technical Secretariat supporting the Managing Authority within the Sicilian Region. Since 2019, he is part of a technical assistance team under a project called TESIM as senior key expert supporting activities for programmes and projects with specific focus in the Mediterranean. Rosario also has large experience in building partnerships and promoting international cross-border and inter-sector collaboration between Mediterranean stakeholders, with a specific experience in training and event facilitation, including partners' consultations. Rosario is experienced in monitoring, evaluating and advising programme management structures. Throughout his career he has provided advisory services on EU cooperation policies and on result-oriented monitoring and impact of projects and the creation of synergies and complementarities. Rosario also possesses large experience in designing and conducting capacity building activities for policymakers and public authorities having led the participation in several EU cross border forums and conversations on social entrepreneurship, green transition and social innovation. Since 2011 he is CEO of **Impact Hub in Sicily**, a social innovation incubator knot of the larger, global network, in which he is co-founder. Rosario is born in Sicily where he lives with his wife and three sons, is an Italian native speaker and fluent in English and French.

Khaoula Behi is the Managing Founder of **Future Islands**, where she leads efforts to cultivate a culture of innovation in Tunisia and beyond. Operating at the intersection of the private, public, and nonprofit sectors, she designs and implements transformative projects focused on the green

transition and non-traditional partnerships. Her work extends to Berlin, where she established Maarifa for Transition, a platform dedicated to sustainable and inclusive solutions for communities affected by crises. Drawing on traditional knowledge and ancestral practices, Khaoula promotes locally grounded responses to climate change—particularly in the areas of water management, eco-tourism, and agri-food systems. With a versatile career as an innovation consultant, she has contributed across both African and European ecosystems, with a strong emphasis on green innovation, entrepreneurship development, and community resilience through cross-sector collaboration. In parallel, Khaoula is actively involved in research, with a special focus on crowdfunding in emerging economies, particularly in North Africa. Her work aims to advance alternative financing models that support inclusive and sustainable innovation.

The trainers will be supported by facilitators and tutors when needed for specific sessions.

For any question or clarification, please feel free to contact us at yousinetsm@gmail.com or nancy.darrigo@impacthub.net.

You SI Net Reload

Overview

Youth Social Innovation Network Reload (You SI Net Reload) is an innovative pilot project designed to foster social innovation and social entrepreneurship among youth. This project is a response to the growing need for empowering young people by equipping them with essential skills and knowledge in these areas. It aims to provide opportunities for learning and development through a series of training activities and a comprehensive virtual education system. You SI Net Reload is funded by the European Programme Erasmus Plus – Virtual Exchange in Higher Education and Youth.

The You SI Net Reload project is not just about imparting skills; it's about creating a platform for young individuals to connect, collaborate, and transform their ideas into tangible social innovations. With a focus on engaging, empowering, and connecting youth workers and young people, You SI Net Reload acts as a bridge between different cultures and countries, particularly across Europe and the southern Mediterranean region.

Objectives

The primary objective of You SI Net Reload is to ensure timely, relevant, and effective communication among all project stakeholders, thereby creating a network of empowered and connected young innovators and entrepreneurs. The project is committed to:

Engaging Youth: At its core, You SI Net Reload is dedicated to reaching out to young people across Europe and the Mediterranean, offering them the tools and knowledge to become effective social innovators and entrepreneurs.

Empowering through Education: By providing access to a virtual education system and a variety of training activities, the project seeks to empower participants with the skills necessary for successful social entrepreneurship.

Promoting Cross-Border Cooperation: Recognizing the value of intercultural dialogue, You SI Net Reload is set to foster cross-border cooperation among four Mediterranean countries: Italy, Jordan, Morocco, and Egypt.

Fostering Social Innovation: In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project underscores the importance of social innovation and entrepreneurship in post-COVID recovery and societal advancement.

Creating a Vibrant Community: The ultimate goal is to establish a diverse and vibrant community of young individuals, organizations, and social enterprises who are passionate about positive social change.

In pursuit of these objectives, You SI Net Reload is focused on building a robust network that resonates with the aspirations and energies of youth, channeling them toward constructive social change. By bringing together like-minded individuals and organizations, You SI Net Reload seeks to create fertile ground for new ideas, collaborations and innovations to shape a better future.

Partner Organizations

You SI Net Reload project has forged strategic partnerships with various organizations across the Mediterranean region to amplify its impact. These collaborations are essential for pooling resources, sharing expertise, and expanding the project's reach. The key partners involved in the You SI Net Reload project includes:

- [Project Ahead](#) (Italy): a social enterprise with expertise in coordinating European projects. Through its incubator, it provides consulting, training, and incubation services for social entrepreneurs and innovators. In You SI Net Reload, PJA is the project coordinator, leading WP1 Governance to ensure smooth implementation, achievement of KPIs, and financial management. It also oversees Monitoring & Evaluation and communication tasks, ensuring visibility and shared learning across the consortium. In addition, PJA co-leads WP5 on Social Enterprises, contributing to the training activities, running the Social Change Wave competition, and co-managing the final mentoring to prepare four winners to pitch their startups at the closing event.
- [Fundación Social Desarrollo Responsable](#) (Spain): a youth organisation focused on social responsibility, non-formal education, and community engagement. It leads WP3 Training on Social Innovation Processes, developing methodologies and toolkits to help youth workers identify local needs and design pilot actions that are implemented across all partner countries.
- [Agenzia per la Promozione dei Giovani](#) (Italy): a youth association dedicated to empowerment and active citizenship through non-formal education. It leads WP4 Training for Facilitators, equipping youth trainers with the skills to deliver social innovation education. APG also coordinates the activity across all consortium countries, working on signing MoUs with schools and integrating social innovation modules into curricula.
- [Impact Hub Siracusa](#) (Italy): part of the global Impact Hub network, with strong expertise in social entrepreneurship, business coaching, and sustainable innovation. It leads WP6 Open Online Course on the European & Mediterranean Framework for Social Innovation, providing training on policies, ecosystems, and financing opportunities. IHS also leads the project's Monitoring & Evaluation activities, leveraging its cross-Mediterranean cooperation experience.

- [Happy Smala](#) (Morocco): a Moroccan innovation lab specialized in collaborative approaches, participatory design, and alternative finance. It leads WP7 Open Online Course on Specific Languages, providing practical training in English and Arabic for pitching social enterprises, as well as e-books and digital resources. Beyond this, Happy Smala supports local actions, mentoring, and digital storytelling, and co-manages the project's monitoring & evaluation.
- [PARACHUTE16](#) (Jordan): an ecosystem builder recognized for entrepreneurship support, outreach, and ecosystem activation across the Arab region. It leads WP2 Communication, Technological Management, and Dissemination, managing the project's digital infrastructure, communication strategy, and outreach. Parachute16 also contributes to WP7 training delivery, supports co-creation processes, and ensures strong visibility for youth-led social innovation initiatives regionally and locally.
- [Future Islands](#) (Tunisia): an innovation lab dedicated to sustainable development and entrepreneurship. It co-leads WP5 Open Online Course on Social Enterprises, providing young people with the tools to design, launch, and sustain social startups. Future Islands also contributes to WP6, ensuring that youth develop critical perspectives and awareness of Euro-Mediterranean policies.
- [Icealex](#) (Egypt): a community-driven innovation hub with a strong focus on technology, entrepreneurship, and social/environmental commitment. It leads WP8 Digital Storytelling, training youth to create digital stories that showcase their social innovation actions. Icealex also manages the project platform, contributes to mentoring and training, and leverages its ecosystem-building expertise to amplify the voices of young changemakers across the Mediterranean.

Note: All partners manage local actions in their countries, ensuring that young people design and implement community-based initiatives with real impact in their local realities.