

Advancing cooperation between different sectors to better support social innovation and entrepreneurship among young people

Towards Collaborative Practice

- European Conference on Youth Work, Social Innovation, and Enterprise

24-26 November, 2015, Malmö Sweden

Call for participants

A **cross-sector conference** exploring the potential of youth work in fostering social entrepreneurship among young people in Europe

Why a European conference on youth work, social innovation and enterprise?

With high levels of youth unemployment in Europe entrepreneurship is increasingly proposed to young people as an alternative way to realize their potential.

A wide range of skills are seen as entrepreneurial and useful to entrepreneurs. They can ensure a better transition from education to the labour market for young people, improving their employability and giving them more chances to find or create the jobs to which they aspire.

Youth work enables young people to develop the entrepreneurial skills which are important in all aspects of their daily lives. However the role of youth work in fostering entrepreneurial learning and entrepreneurship has rarely been a topic of inquiry in its own right. Nevertheless, youth work is a field which has developed tremendously across Europe, whilst 'Erasmus+ Youth in Action' has been particularly influential in bringing young people closer to the soft skills they need in a competitive labour market.

There are many ways in which youth work can support entrepreneurship, in addition to enhancing entrepreneurial skills in young people. Youth work can help young people make informed decisions through shedding light on the risks of choosing an entrepreneurial career. It can enable more responsible economic behaviours by making young people reflect on the values and ethics of young people's enterprising ideas. Youth work may therefore encourage young people's participation in alternative business models – as actors in the social economy – such as associations, cooperatives, foundations and social enterprises. These types of business are in line with the values, practices and attitudes promoted by youth work. They are based on European principles of cooperation, team-work and social impact awareness, and often bring a high level of social innovation.

This cross-sector European conference will provide you with the perfect opportunity to engage in a debate on what is within the capacity of youth work when it comes to social entrepreneurship support, to articulate the purposes and value of youth work to policy-makers and the public, promote youth work achievements in the field and explore the bridges that can be built with other entrepreneurship support structures/programmes and the business sector.

What's in it for me?

This event is expected to be a forum for meeting and exchange, where you will be able to explore the role of different actors in supporting social entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial learning in different European contexts, share your experiences, examples of good practice, and initiate or strengthen co-operation. You will grasp the connection between youth work, social entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial learning and social innovation by meeting a variety of experts and social entrepreneurs in dynamic settings. Through field visits of a wide range of social businesses and meetings with entrepreneurs you will gain inspiration for new projects.

You will get information, inspiration and plenty of networking opportunities. This will help generate innovative ideas and projects with a strong social impact in Europe.

Objectives of the conference

- ✚ Clarify and promote the role of youth work in providing entrepreneurial learning and supporting aspiring young social entrepreneurs;
- ✚ Create a common understanding of social entrepreneurship among youth workers;
- ✚ Map social entrepreneurship support structures/ actors/ policies/ programmes/ financial schemes at national and European level;
- ✚ Initiate and reinforce future cooperation between youth workers and other relevant stakeholders;
- ✚ Facilitate the sharing of practices and methods useful for social entrepreneurship creation and support;
- ✚ Promote “Erasmus+” contribution to supporting entrepreneurial learning and social entrepreneurship.

When and where?

The conference will take place in the city of **Malmö, Sweden from 24 to 26 November 2015**. It will start 10.00am on November 24th and finish after lunch on November 26th. Participants will need to arrive on 23 November in the evening, or the morning of 24 November.

Target public

We are looking for **80 participants** with the following professional backgrounds: **youth workers, social entrepreneurs, NA officers, formal education representatives, policy-makers, researchers, employment and entrepreneurship support services (Chambers of Commerce, incubators etc.), associations of cooperatives, local and regional administration representatives...coming from the**

following **25 countries**: BE-FR, BE-FL, BG, CY, FR, FI, GR, IC, LV, LT, LCHT, NL, PL, TR, RO, HR, SE, DE, UK, AT, MT, DK, HU, ES, IT.

Your participation costs will be covered by your Erasmus+ National Agency.

Working methods

The conference will be a combination of **plenary sessions, workshops and field visits**. It will be based on **non-formal learning approaches** encouraging the active involvement of participants, giving them space to take an active role, express themselves and share good examples of practice.

Programme of the conference

----->		<i>Towards Common Ground</i>	<i>Exploring Cross Sector Collaboration</i>	<i>Summing Up & Going for Action</i>
	23/11	Tuesday 24/11	Wednesday, 25/11	Thursday 26/11
9.00	Arrival	10.00 Official Opening- Welcome to the conference and to Malmö	The European context of Social Entrepreneurship and its opportunities	Harvesting success factors of social entrepreneurs
10.15		Setting the context for youth work, social innovation and entrepreneurship in Europe	Coffee break	Coffee break
10.45			How to solve social problems with entrepreneurial skills and ideas	Looking back, partnership development and action plan
12.30		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
14.00		Food for thought- Get inspired by keynote speakers	Field visits of local social enterprises and support structures in Malmö and Copenhagen	Departures
15.00		Coffee break		
15.30		Workshops- Sharing European practices, models and visions		
17.30		Looking back at the day		
19.00		Dinner	Dinner	
20.00		Mingle	Networking evening	

More about the sessions

Our aim is to make every session innovative and inspiring by mixing practical and theoretical elements from the social entrepreneurship and youth work fields. The sessions, as well as informal time are designed to promote new and innovative partnerships between participants coming from different sectors.

Arrival day

Evening Mingle

We welcome our participants to the city of Malmö, the most cultural city in Sweden, through the possibility to participate in a friendly and fun welcome mingle activity.

Day 1

Grand Opening

The conference starts with a colourful and spectacular opening ceremony displaying an impressive selection of Malmö's talented young people in the cultural field. After the cultural performances you will get the chance to listen to local and international welcome speakers.

Setting the context for youth work, social innovation and entrepreneurship in Europe

What do we mean by Social Entrepreneurship? What is Social Innovation? What are the different actors of social economy? What is the connection between youth work and social entrepreneurship? On the first session of the conference you will get more familiar with different concepts and connections between different actors and social entrepreneurship.

Food for thought- Get inspired by keynote speakers

Get inspired by examples of how a social business works in order to create sustainable development at local level.

Workshops- Sharing European practices, models and visions

A chance to take part in a number of interactive, innovative, and hands-on workshops according to your interest. The themes of the workshops are cross-sector and you will get a chance to extend your knowledge and skills within entrepreneurial learning, funding opportunities, idea creation, social businesses, and support systems.

Speed dating and networking event

Have you not yet had a chance to talk to all different professionals attending the conference? This is your chance to expand your network.

Day 2

The European context of Social Entrepreneurship and its opportunities

Social Entrepreneurship is a concept that benefits from increased popularity in Europe which an increasing number of actors acknowledge as important for young people. In this session the European Commission will broaden your understanding about European cross-sector policies in relation to the theme.

How to solve social problems with social innovation and entrepreneurship

Meet a number of successful social entrepreneurs from a diverse range of sectors. They will not only tell you about their own story, but also give an insight about how different social businesses work and the important success factors upon which they rely.

Field visits of local social businesses and support structures in the region

You will get a unique chance to gain increased knowledge about social businesses, meet entrepreneurs in Copenhagen and Malmo and learn about their business models. In what ways have these entrepreneurs managed to solve a societal issue with innovation, and using the existing resources of the community? What are the success factors? The selected themes are **integration, youth unemployment, female entrepreneurship, anti-racism, and culture.**

European Innovation Fair

We invite you to share local innovative solutions to societal problems from your local reality. Inspire and be inspired by others!

Day 3

Harvesting success factors of social entrepreneurs

We start the last day of the conference by exploring the different field visits of the previous days and what the learning outcomes were. Focus will be on success factors of the social enterprises and if they can inspire other people with different or similar local realities.

Looking back, partnership & develop the action plan

After the intense days of discussions, insights, inspiration and new ideas it is time to turn the knowledge into action. We therefore invite you to a session where we construct our own individual action plans for incorporating the gained knowledge into our local context. With that in mind we say "hejdå" (bye) and close the conference for this time.

This conference is funded by the “Erasmus+ Youth in action” programme.



It is co-organised by the Swedish, UK, Italian, German, Austrian, Hungarian, Maltese, Danish, French, Spanish and Belgian-FR “Erasmus+ Youth in action” National Agencies, in collaboration with the SALTO-YOUTH Participation resource centre.



Erasmus+ is the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport.
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Ministry of Higher Education and Science
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