

Social Leader Forum 2015



Project Description

The Social Leader Forum 2015 is the continuation of the previous activities from 2013 and 2014 with the new focus on employability, brain drain, labor migration of young people and the development of innovative tools to address these challenges. The Forum offers young professionals dealing with this issues from Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia and Turkey, 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 innovation. 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.



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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.

We want to promote by this interdisciplinary, cross-sector and cross-border dialogue and 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.

Special focus will be given here to the chances and challenges of collaboration of civil society actors with public institutions and the business sector, with a special focus on social entrepreneurship. The participants will also plan and conduct cross-sector and/or cross-border study visits and learn by this how other organizations and institutions are working on the topics as well as establish new cooperation. Here, we also want to improve the sustainability of civil society activities by adapting working models from other sectors (like it is done in social entrepreneurship).

By this, we are not only promoting trust-building between the different sectors, but also contributed to an cross-cultural exchange, where all involved actors can learn from each other.

Participants

Concerning the problem of employability and related challenges, there is a 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 except minimum age of 18.



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Expected outcomes

- a) The participants will get a better understanding of different approaches towards the issue of youth employability and related fields and how each of the sector respond to the challenge in their own and other countries. By this, the participants will increase their understanding of other sectors and develop mutual trust.
- b) The participants will get new impulses and innovative ideas for their work from each other in the professional exchange, the study visits 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.
- c) The participants will develop together new tools, approaches and projects of how best to address the problem of youth employability and the related fields.

Activities

September 30 - October 6, Tbilisi, Georgia

First meeting of stakeholders from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey and Russia will take place in Tbilisi, Georgia, and will gather representatives of different sectors to discuss problems mentioned above.

October 5 – public **Career Development Forum** will be organized in frames of the meeting, Young people, with special focus on students, as well as marginalized groups will have a chance to meet possible employees and participate in open workshops organized as learning spaces. Main goal of the event is to open communication with companies, as well as get skill training according to labor market needs. Forum will be organized based on open space principle.

October 17 – 22, Istanbul, Turkey

As the project is going through development phase, we are organizing stakeholder meeting in Istanbul. Main participants of this meeting will be institutions interested in further cooperation from all partner countries, as well as foundations, alumni and former coordinators of the program. With this meeting we aim to work on our strategy for the upcoming year, as well as prepare base for fundraising plan for November 2015.



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