

Social Enterprises' Sustainability Tools

The EMPOWER initiative is designed to assist aspiring young entrepreneurs and foster the growth of sustainable social businesses. It establishes collaborative learning links between companies and youth initiatives, offering educational resources that guide young individuals in recognizing problems and capitalizing on opportunities in new markets. These resources encompass contemporary and tested techniques and tools that assist entrepreneurs in crafting impactful strategies for their social ventures. Moreover, the project is in the process of creating a simulation game. This game aims to provide practical experience for young entrepreneurs, enabling them to apply these tools in realistic situations. This project ultimately equips young individuals with the know-how and critical perspective necessary for social entrepreneurship.

The Power of Social Entrepreneurship

Social entrepreneurship is a rapidly growing sector combining business acumen with a desire to positively impact the world. These innovative ventures are driven by a mission to solve social, cultural, or environmental issues while also making a profit. The EMPOWER project is at the forefront of this movement, providing young entrepreneurs with the tools and training they need to succeed. From identifying opportunities in emerging markets to developing effective strategies, EMPOWER is helping to shape the future of social entrepreneurship.

News on the project's progress

EMPOWER Final Conference in University of Cyprus, Nicosia.

The University of Cyprus had the pleasure of hosting the "Empowering Tomorrow's Entrepreneurs" event. The event, organized by CARDET in collaboration with the STARS4SD and EMPOWER initiatives, and was attended by approximately 50 participants eager to integrate social impact into their business ventures.

The afternoon of November 22nd was full with energy and inspiration as attendees gathered to hear from a panel of aspiring entrepreneurs, including Charalambos Papas, a noted Social Entrepreneur; and Alex Peletie, Founder and CEO of Precious Plastic Cyprus. These guests shared their journeys, from ideation to operational success, focusing on the crucial incorporation of sustainability and social responsibility.

The attendees, comprising students, entrepreneurs, seasoned professionals, engaged in robust discussions about the challenges and triumphs of starting a business with a core of social and environmental ethics. The speakers provided actionable insights and professional tips, drawing from their own experiences of aligning business objectives with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The event underscored the University's commitment to fostering an entrepreneurial ecosystem where sustainability is not an afterthought but a foundational element. It also highlighted the growing importance of social entrepreneurship in the global market, where

businesses are increasingly evaluated on their societal impact as well as their financial performance.

Participants left the event equipped with the knowledge and motivation to turn their entrepreneurial visions into realities that can contribute to a better world. The event closed with a networking session, providing a platform for attendees to collaborate and exchange ideas, potentially sowing the seeds for future sustainable ventures.



EMPOWER Final Conference in Bologna, Italy.

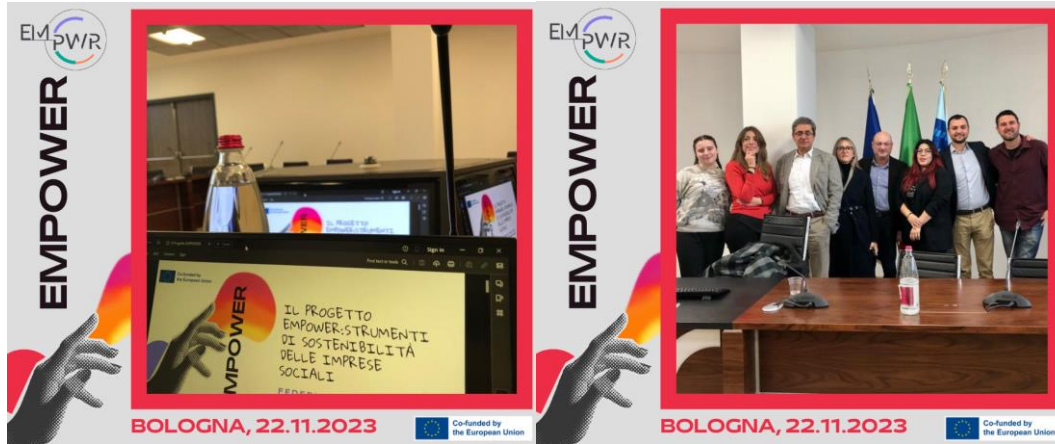
On Wednesday, November 22, the final event of the Erasmus+ project 'Sustainability Tools for Social Enterprises' took place in Bologna organised by SERN.

Social impact is a necessary tool for measuring and evaluating the work that social enterprises carry out on a daily basis in local communities. During our final event, we discussed it together with Confcooperative Romagna and Cim Onlus stakeholders of the project, and For.B and Officine On/Off also joined the discussion.

Thanks to the presentation of some practical examples of social enterprises, the various speeches led to a discussion among the guests on the topic of the Impact Assessment of the activities of Social Enterprises, with a specific focus on the tools developed by the EMPOWER project partners to stimulate the entrepreneurial capacity of young people in the social enterprises' sector.

The following project outputs were presented during the meeting:

- Training Package for sustainability in Social Enterprises
- Social Enterprises Simulation Game
- MOOC for fostering social entrepreneurship.
- Policy Paper – building a sustainable social enterprise sector.



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