



WB SEA Social Economy LAB

About the project:

The aim of the WB SEA project is the creation of a favourable environment for incorporating the social economy in youth policies and youth work practices in the WB region, while fostering networking and thematic cooperation. The alliance seeks to reach its project goal through the following objectives:

1. Depict the social economy as a brain-gain catalyst in the Western Balkans, thus building the capacity of youth organisations in the WB region to embed social economy in their strategic planning and positioning and to develop social economy programmes and advocacy initiatives;
2. Stimulate youth brain-gain in the WB region by supporting the creation of an enabling environment for youth employment through the promotion of self-employment and social entrepreneurship practices;
3. Foster regional cooperation, capacity-building and an exchange of know-how and good practices between WB and EU countries with the aim of developing a regional approach towards the social economy as well as strengthening the existing social economy ecosystems;
4. Support the economic and social development of the WB region by offering a strategic approach towards the social economy and the inclusion of youth as agents of change in the context of the regional aspirations for membership in the European Union.

Project partners: ADP-Zid (Montenegro), Diesis Network (Belgium), Partners Albania (Albania), CDP Globus (Bosnia and Herzegovina), COSV (Italy), Lens(Kosovo*), Arno (North Macedonia) and Young Ambassadors (Serbia).

About the labs:

The WB SEA labs is the concept emerging from the project of the same name (minus labs ☺), which would embody the unique roadmap towards establishing network of change makers in SE field, that would contribute to the supporting environment for the young social entrepreneurs and social innovators. The participants of the program would become SE facilitators equipped with knowledge and skills to work on local level with youngsters from their community in considering the social economy as one of tools for them to make a difference in their community, and for their social and economic integration.

The lab is consisted from three stages:

1. Training for Young SE Facilitators I: Advocacy, Partnership-building and Digital Learning for SE
2. Training for Young SE Facilitators II: Developing SE Educational Curriculum for Youth CSOs
3. Multiplier events: Social Economy Schools

Travel and accommodation costs are covered within the project.



Stage I:

I training is devoted to the development of advocacy and partnership building strategies for the participants to be implemented on the local level. The training would be intended for the Young SE Facilitators, youth work practitioners, that would help disseminate the project results, and help promotion of best practices in local communities. Their task as peer educators would be especially important in local Social economy schools that would be designed and implemented within this project, based on the framework developed through the training program.

The intended number of participants for the training is 24, three per participating countries: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Belgium, Italy, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia.

Location: Podgorica, Montenegro

Duration: 6 days

Dates: Last week of March 2022 (27 March – 02 April)

Stage II:

II training is focused on the practical development of the curricula for the implementation of the social economy schools. The curriculum would allow multiplication for those schools in all local communities, and would be reusable in different context, following defined learning stages, with clear outcomes. Reflecting on both on the trainings, development of the curriculum will bring SE closer to youth in WB. Educational component directed towards young (aspiring) social entrepreneurs.

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Location: Podgorica, Montenegro

Duration: 6 days

Dates: Last week of April 2022 (tbc)

Stage III:

Social economy schools are local events to be organised in 6 WB countries with virtual support from the participants' form Belgium and Italy. The schools will represent three-day workshops, designed and implemented by the facilitators, with the support of project partners, capitalizing on developed learning framework through the two preceding trainings. The school is designed so that participants through practical and theoretical work get basic knowledge on how to develop a concept and idea for using social economy as a solution on different community issues, but as well as an employment opportunity.

Location: local events, in the involved WB6 countries.

Duration: 3 days

Dates: During May 2022, timeline defined by the Young SE facilitators, with the support of local partners.



Impact on participants:

- Increased theoretical and practical knowledge on social economy in WB and EU, and gained first-hand experience on social economy practices (ex. social cooperatives), thus get inspired to replicate good practices and create positive change;
- Boosted employability, self-employability, and entrepreneurial spirit through innovative training curricula on SE;
- Improved skills and knowledge on youth advocacy and lobbying, digital media, and digital advocacy tools to influence SE policies;
- Increased knowledge and skills in non-formal education, facilitation, curricula development, and online and on-ground youth engagement tools in SE;
- Enhanced knowledge on strategic organizational and program development, research and policy analysis skills in SE increased;
- Improved intercultural and soft skills and expanded professional networks in SE in both regions;

Participants profile:

This activity is open for youth workers, NGO practitioners, social economy actors and enthusiasts, youth leaders. It is expected that participants are to be interested and motivated to become a part of a WB SEA network and to support the further development of the project.

We also welcome people who already have experience in international youth work through Erasmus+, and especially those experienced in the field of social economy.

The selected participants should:

- Be coming from the project participating countries, i.e. Albania in this case;
- Have interest in (further) getting involved in the actions of the WB SEA;
- Have basic knowledge regarding social economy, greater experience would be an asset,
- Be at least 18 years old;
- Be able to communicate in English;
- Be devoted to be part of the three stages of the lab;
- Have the potential and need to develop their competences in youth work in the area of social economy and social innovation;
- Show initiative and willingness to self-direct their own learning process;
- Be prepared to reflect on and question their own beliefs and approaches as future SE Facilitators.

Recognition and Certification:

The learning outcomes will be also recognized and validated through the production of the Training Curricula and the Social Economy Schools as a way for the participants to practically implement their acquired competencies and multiply the impact on young people and youth CSOs. The participants will receive at the end of the programme a Youthpass certificate, together with the project based certificate issued by the coordinating partner (ADP Zid). The Youthpass will confirm their learning growth and help to increase the visibility and internationalization of the educational practices, and boost the participants' competitiveness on the labour markets across the WB and EU.

Application Process:

All interested applicants should send their applications no later than **10 March 2022**. The application should consist in the filled **Application Form** (to be downloaded) and the **attached Curriculum Vitae** sent by email at info@duapartnerinvest.com. The Application Form should be downloaded, filled in with your information, and should be sent by email as a PDF file.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at: info@duapartnerinvest.com.