

PRESS RELEASE

On May 19th 2023, INNO4CHANGE partnership joined the Kick-Off Meeting of the INNO4CHANGE Empowering innovation and entrepreneurship skills on social entrepreneurs, project, which is co-funded by the European Commission, and brings together 8 Partners from 8 countries (Italy, Spain, Austria, Turkey, Poland, Portugal, Greece and Cyprus). The KOM was held both in person and online mode.

The INNO4CHANGE project is a new initiative that aims to empower future social entrepreneurs with the skills and knowledge they need to create innovative and sustainable solutions for social challenges. The project has two main objectives:

- To develop innovation, entrepreneurship, and business skills among potential and existing social entrepreneurs, helping them to generate new ideas, grow their businesses, and achieve positive social impact.
- To capacitate vocational education and training (VET) providers and professionals who work with social entrepreneurs, enabling them to integrate innovation, business, and sustainability topics in their programmes and curricula.

The Social Business Initiative (2011) has outlined a series of actions aimed at making a significant impact on social entrepreneurs. One of these actions involves providing access to EU education and training programs. The goal is to enhance the visibility of social entrepreneurship and innovation at the EU level. Typically, social entrepreneurs have a strong demand for specific skills related to innovation, business development, and sustainability.

The INNO4CHANGE project aims to support the growth of innovation, entrepreneurship, and business skills among future social entrepreneurs and Vocational Education and Training (VET) providers. This will be achieved by gathering inspirational videos and offering training curricula and educational resources. Professionals who work with social entrepreneurs will be able to incorporate these topics into their programs and curricula. In doing so, the project aligns with the VET objective of adapting vocational education and training to meet labor market needs.

The inspirational videos, training curricula, and educational resources provided by the project are expected to facilitate the development of VET programs that offer a well-rounded combination of innovation, entrepreneurship, and business skills for social entrepreneurs. Additionally, the project aims to create work-based learning opportunities that align with the growing significance of socially innovative enterprises in the labor market.

The project will produce a comprehensive report on the state of the art of social entrepreneurship education and training in Europe, a set of online courses on innovation, entrepreneurship, and business for social entrepreneurs, a toolkit for VET providers and professionals on how to design and deliver effective learning programmes for social entrepreneurs. Moreover, it will foster the creation of a network of stakeholders and experts in the field of social entrepreneurship education and training.

The INNO4CHANGE project is an opportunity to foster a culture of innovation and social responsibility among the next generation of entrepreneurs. By equipping them with the necessary skills and competencies, the project aims to contribute to the creation of a more inclusive, fair, and sustainable society.

During the meeting, the consortium as a whole discussed the overall project implementation schedule, defining timelines and respective duties. During the first phase, partners will carry out a primary research on experts of the innovation and social economy system in order to approve the modules that will be implemented, defining a set of basic skills and one of specific competencies. The results will help partners develop tailored training courses and tools to be uploaded on the INNO4CHANGE platform, along with other project's outputs, news and contacts that will be available on the project website for individual users, VET organisations, Universities, Higher Education Organisations and policy makers.