Selfmade and Partners Presents

BEYOND THE FIELDS

EMPOWERING RURAL YOUTH FOR ENTREPRENEUR SUCCESS

7-13 October 2024

Castelo Novo, Portugal

Erasmus+

BEYOND THE FIELDS

PROJECT DETAILS:

Title: Beyond the Fields - Empowering Rural Youth for Entrepreneur Success

Duration: 7 days

Youth Exchange Dates: 7-13 October 2024

Venue: Castelo Novo, Fundão, Portugal

Participants: (6 per team)

Profile: As the project wants to inspire the entrepreneur mindset by promoting rural and social entrepreneurship among young people who live in rural areas, the participants for this project ideally need to be 18-25 years old and be interested in rural entrepreneurship or already have a background in it. It is crucial that participants come from rural areas.

Coordinator: Associação Selfmade (Portugal)

Partners:

Romagna Plus (Italian Partner)
Kiyidosk (Turkish Partner)
Estrellas del Sur (Spanish Partner)
SIR (Polish Partner)

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PROJECT SUMMARY:

The idea for this project came as a consequence of the reality of the community where Selfmade is based and our objectives as an NGO. Our organization is based in Fundão, a region surrounded by several small villages battling a specific issue: Rural Shrinkage and Desertification. According to the Policy Brief, Shrinking rural regions in Europe: “By 2050, the population of predominantly rural regions is projected to fall by 7.9 million.” (Shrinking rural regions in Europe). With Portugal's youth unemployment at 18.1%, and EU countries like ESP (27.9%) and GRE (27.7%) even higher, the need to empower the youth is pressing.

Our project aims to directly address this by giving insights on real rural and social businesses, fostering an entrepreneurial mindset among rural young minds, promoting the importance of social entrepreneurship in addressing rural community issues and equipping 30 young people from rural areas with essential soft skills for professional and personal life by sharing essential tools and knowledge on leadership, management, and communication for the entrepreneurial world.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Educate 30 young people from rural areas in 6 European Union countries with high youth unemployment about the concept of rural social entrepreneurship through non-formal education activities in a 7-day Youth Exchange in Castelo Novo, Portugal.

- Promote rural social businesses and their importance in maintaining the economy and valuing communities and their traditions, fostering an entrepreneurial mindset among young people from rural areas.

- Inform 30 young people about government and European support/opportunities for young entrepreneurs in rural areas, such as Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs and the European Solidarity Corps (ESC), which they can apply to and develop their skills for professional and personal development.

- Equip 30 young people from rural areas with essential soft skills for professional and personal life by sharing tools and knowledge on leadership, management, and communication tools essential for the entrepreneurial world trough NFE activities.

- Enable young people to be architects of their own lives, support their personal development and growth towards autonomy, build their resilience, and equip them with life skills to cope with a changing world.

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PARTICIPANTS PROFILE AND SELECTION:

For this Youth Exchange, we are targeting participants that:

- Have enough level of English to interact with others and have a useful presence in the exchange.
- Is interested in the topic at hand and maybe have some experience in it so that the exchange can be more interactive and productive.
- Lives in a rural area and are interested in starting their own social business and creating value for their community.
- Is interested in learning more about Social Entrepreneurship.
- Wants to learn new tools for young entrepreneurs and improve their soft skills in leadership, communication, and management.
- Wants to learn about European opportunities for young entrepreneurs and how to take advantage of them.
- Is interested in getting to know new cultures, want to learn more about the topic, and contribute to the project by sharing their knowledge and experiences through experiential education.
- Is willing to participate fully in dissemination activities.

The age limit for participants is 16-30 years old. However, it is preferred that they are between 18 and 25 years old except for the team leader, who has no age limit, but MUST HAVE previous experience in the topic, Youth Exchanges or other Erasmus+ programs. Also, partners must guarantee the gender balance of their national teams for a good quality level of the project.

It's also important to mention that at least THREE participants HAVE TO come from backgrounds of fewer opportunities. Every national partner and organizing team is responsible for providing the necessary help to guarantee that they can participate in the project and not feel discriminated against in any way.

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DISTRIBUTION PER COUNTRY:

SELFMADE	ROMAGNA PLUS	ESTRELLAS DEL SUR
(Portugal)	(Italy)	(Spain)
5 Participants 1 Team Leader	5 Participants 1 Team Leader	5 Participants 1 Team Leader

SIR	KIYIDOSK
(Poland)	(Turkey)
5 Participants 1 Team Leader	5 Participants 1 Team Leader

Total: 30 participants 6 per team **(It is required at least 2 participants from Fewer Opportunities per team)**

SELECTION PROCESS:

To ensure a collaborative and uniformed process of selection for this Youth Exchange we have established a thorough selection process, comprising of:

A) The partners announce the Youth Exchange and gather participants, in accordance with the profile.

1) Every partner has to publish on their social media and provide full information on the Exchange (topic, dates, place, conditions, application deadline, etc.).

Note: Selfmade will provide some ready-made content for social media posts.

B) Get to know the participants!

1) To select the participants we will conduct an application form with the necessary questions to determine their goals in joining the project, their background and their motivation.

2) After the selection of the participants, by the application form, the participants' organizations must conduct an interview in order to get to know each participant.

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BEYOND THE FIELDS

TRAVEL RULES:

For this project, we opted for a more liberal approach when it comes to travel.

- Fewer opportunities participants can have their tickets purchased by our team, they will **only have to pay a 100€ caution fee to Selfmade OR their Sending Organisation**, which will be returned to them after participating in the project. The fee is a precaution and will only be charged to ensure that in case of cancellation from a participant, we can use that caution fee to change the name of the purchased flight to the later replaced participant.

- Participants **can purchase their travels themselves and go through the regular reimbursement process with our mentoring and approval.** All plane tickets purchased must be confirmed by us before the flights are purchased so they comply with the travel rules.

Participants should choose a comfortable but inexpensive travel option to fit within the budget. We recommend buying tickets as early as possible. After purchasing flights, partners should immediately gather invoices and those kinds of documents and send them to the E-mail: **beyondthefieldsye2024@gmail.com**, for us to neatly start packing all reimbursement-related documents together.

Participants must fly to Lisbon Airport Or Porto and arrive no later than **15h00** on the **7th of October**. They need to catch the metro from the Airport Station (Aeroporto) to a bus Station (Sete Rios or Oriente depending on the bus they choose).
Participants must also book their Train or Bus to **Fundão**, we will pick them up around **19h30** at **Fundão Bus Station** We recommend purchasing bus tickets online at https://rede-expressos.pt/pt or train tickets at https://www.cp.pt/passageiros/en

Always confirm your flights with Selfmade team before buying them.

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TRAVEL DETAILS:

It’s very simple:

- Go down the metro access from the airport;
- Buy a ticket in the machines (Cost: 1,85€);
- Proceed to the side of the metro;
- Leave in the bus station
- Participants can catch their bus to Fundão to which they should have already purchased their tickets online.
- In Fundão a Selfmade Staff Member will be waiting for them to take them by bus to Castelo Novo, our venue.

To return, we follow the same formula, **Participants have to depart after 15h00 on the 13th of October**. Private Transportation (Taxi, personal car, etc) will not be reimbursed. Large luggage can be reimbursed if the travel plan does not exceed the travel budget.

TRAVEL BUDGET (PER PARTICIPANT)

PORTUGAL

Travel Funds: **23€**

ITALY

Travel Funds: **275€**

SPAIN

Travel Funds: **210€**
(Green travel included)

POLAND

Travel Funds: **360€**

TURKEY

Travel Funds: **360€**

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PROJECT TIMELINE:

10 Aug

BEYOND THE FIELDS PREP MEETING

11 Aug

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS/PROMO

Selfmade Responsibilities:

- Start promoting the Beyond the Fields Project
- Provide Partners with adequate tools for the participant selection process (FORMS, DIGITAL CONTENT, INFOPACK, GOOGLE DRIVE SHARED WORKSPACE ETC.)

Partner Responsibilities:

- Share the project in social media, local community and groups of youngsters
- Please send links, of any posts or promo done for Beyond the Fields in your name, for our dissemination report
- Select a Team Leader as soon as possible
- Do your best to find participants keeping gender balance and project needs in mind

1 Sept

PARTICIPANT SELECTION DEADLINE

Selfmade Responsibilities:

- Select an adequate National Team considering the needs of the project
- Ensure gender balance and fewer opportunity participants
- Maintain open and constant communication with the partner team

Partner Responsibilities:

- Select an adequate National Team considering the needs of the project
- Go through the aforementioned participant selection process
- Ensure gender balance and participants from backgrounds of fewer opportunities

2 Sept

PARTICIPANT PREPARATION DEADLINE

Selfmade Responsibilities:

- Add Participants to the Beyond The Fields Project Facebook Group

Partner Responsibilities:

- Collect participants logistic information and submit it to the Selfmade Team (Google Forms etc.)
- Schedule preparation meetings with the selected team
- Have preparation meetings with participants
- Start looking at flight options and costs (Please notify the Selfmade Team, with your top 3 or 2 flight options prior to purchasing)

30 Sept

FLIGHT PURCHASE DEADLINE

Selfmade Responsibilities:

- Approve Participant Flights
- Create Travel Plans and other logistical documents related to the Beyond the Fields. Project
- Start gathering Invoices and other flight-related documents

Partner Responsibilities:

- Help participants choose the best flights and notify Selfmade before purchasing flights

1 Oct

PRE-MOBILITY ZOOM SESSION

Selfmade Responsibilities:

- Prepare and Implement the Beyond the Fields Pre-mobility Zoom Session
- Look to create a good ice-breaking first contact for participants

Partner Responsibilities:

- Make sure one member of your team comes to the online session with the participants
- Make sure every participant from your team joins the meeting

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PROJECT TIMELINE:

7 - 13 Oct

MOBILITY (7 ACTIVITY DAYS, 2 TRAVEL DAYS)

Selfmade Responsibilities:

- Implement the mobility
- Reach learning and project goals
- Be in a constant state of self-evaluation
- Keep open communication with partners and participants
- Listen to participant and partner feedback and make smart changes
- Create a good NFE Learning Experience

Partner Responsibilities:

- Keep open communication with partners and participants
- Be there for your National Team
- Keep us on our toes (NOTIFY ANYTHING YOU FIND IMPORTANT FOR US TO HAVE THE BEST PROJECT POSSIBLE!)

As Fast As Possible

PARTICIPANT REIMBURSEMENT

Reimbursement will be done, as soon as we collect all flight-related documents, we ask that participants send us their return boarding passes and such by post after arriving in their home countries. The process is simple:

- Send flight invoices and itineraries gathered prior to the mobility to Selfmade;
- Make sure participants don't lose boarding passes and such while travelling, so they give those to us upon arrival we count on team leaders to take this responsibility;
- Repeat the same step when returning back home from Portugal, and send all physical documents to Selfmade by post and digital ones by email.

When we collect all documents from a national team, we will reimburse the team. So stay on top of your participants so this process is smooth and quick. KEEP IN MIND THIS PROCESS DOES NOT APPLY IF SELFMADE PURCHASES FLIGHTS FOR PARTICIPANTS.

30 Jan

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Selfmade Responsibilities:

- Send and accompany the Portuguese Team to 1 or more schools and Uni's in order to share their experience in the YE or conduct an online session on its social media
- Create and share the Beyond The Fields Video

Partner Responsibilities:

- Send accompany your National Team to 1 or more schools and Uni's in order to share their experience in the YE or conduct an online session on its social media.
- Send a small report of the activity to Selfmade (include photographs please!)
- Guarantee all dissemination activities are implemented in accordance with the Dissemination Plan

30 Jan

BEYOND THE FIELDS ZOOM AND SCHOOL VISITS

Selfmade Responsibilities:

- Prepare and Implement the Beyond the Fields Zoom Sessions and School Visits

Partner Responsibilities:

- Make sure one member of your team comes to the online session with the participants
- Inform the importance of this session to participants and try to ensure participation

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PROJECT TIMELINE:

15 Feb

BEYOND THE FIELDS POST-PROJECT MEETING

Selfmade Responsibilities:

- Prepare and Implement the Beyond the Fields Post-Project Meeting
- Listen to Partner's Feedback
- Give Feedback on The Project
- Address any issue or missing thing

Partner Responsibilities:

- Make sure at least one member from your organization attends the meeting
- Give honest Feedback about the project to Selfmade
- Address any issue or missing thing

PROJECT RESULTS RE-ACTIVATION CAMPAING

Selfmade Responsibilities:

- Prepare and Implement the Beyond the Fields Post-Project Meeting
- Listen to Partner's Feedback
- Give Feedback on The Project
- Address any issue or missing thing

Partner Responsibilities:

- Make sure at least one member from your organization attends the meeting
- Give honest Feedback about the project to Selfmade
- Address any issue or missing thing