

GIRLS LEAD PROJECT

What is the project about?

“GIRLS LEAD” is a European project aiming to develop a culture of initiative among young women, to build their leadership skills and help them to realise their first social enterprising ideas. Actions are planned in 3 steps: the first step is to inspire the young women; the second is to train them leadership skills; and the third is to let them get involved and act.

During the first months of the project, the European partners worked on impact stories by presenting examples of female social entrepreneurs in the partner countries and developing short films of some of the successful stories. By highlighting these impact stories and lessons learned the project aims to inspire and motivate young women to get involved and act as a force for change in their local communities and in wider society. The GIRLS LEAD website (<http://www.girls-lead.eu/>) shows the outcome of this common work.



Since the transnational meeting in Pau, France, in March 2019, the partnership concentrated on the elaboration of the Curriculum for Girls' Leadership Support Training Program:

The social economy and particularly the social entrepreneurship need women in leadership as far as women have an important role in the social entrepreneurship area. However, leadership is not a hierarchical position, it is an approach. The main objective of the training is developing the leadership skills of the young women involved in the social entrepreneurship area.

The training will also help young women to overcome overt and hidden biases against women as leaders, to adopt a competitive mindset that leverages their strengths as a woman, to build a wide and strategic network of key stakeholders who will promote their career, to avoid taking a perfectionist approach to competitive and challenging situations and to recover from losses quickly by learning to take things less personally.

The learning approach is Blended learning - combining online educational materials and opportunities for interaction online and face to face with traditional place-based classroom methods or in other words combining online educational materials and opportunities for interaction online and face to face with traditional place-based classroom methods.



The training program includes **6 modules**.

During the first Module **“Who am I - Personal Development”** the young women will be able to assess their skills and qualities, to consider their aims in life, to set goals in order to realize and maximize their leadership potential, to identify the skills, they need to set life goals which can enhance their leadership potential, to raise their self-confidence. After the second Module **“Am I a leader - Leadership Skills”** the participants will be able to define leadership and characteristics of a good leader, to make a clear difference between a leader and a manager, to identify the different characteristics and types of leadership, to differentiate between being proactive and reactive, to understand empathy and its importance in leadership. As a result of the third module **“Visioning - Where am I going”**, participants will be able to assess the skills and competencies of their ideas and vision for the future, to strategically plan for their future work and impact, to evaluate and reflect on the effectiveness of their work and purpose, to develop leadership skills and potential, to develop self-confidence and autonomy and to become familiar with the best actions for visioning forward. After the fourth module **“How do I make myself heard”** the participants will have information and advice that is designed to help them to think about their personal development and ways in which they can work towards goals and their full leadership potential.

The Module **“Can I solve problems”** is designed to give the participants an overview of creative problem-solving strategies. They will discover different tools to enable them, to develop their critical and creative thinking, to analyze existing problems and possible solutions. As a result of the last module **“Becoming the Best - Interpersonal Skills”**, participants will be able to recognize the importance of interpersonal skills and in turn maximize their leadership potential, to develop motivational skills, to understand the importance of Team work, to acquire key skills in effective decision making, to develop competences in assertiveness and at the end to improve their self-confidence by developing key skills.

In line with the developed Curriculum for Girls’ Leadership Support Training program a set of digital training materials will be jointly designed by the partnership in the coming weeks in order to meet the specific training needs of the young women. The Training program will then be tested before summer 2020 in almost all partner countries.

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