about this project

Change Laboratory is a platform where 29 young experts and representatives of non-governmental organizations from Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Estonia, Slovakia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Sweden, Greece and Romania will carry out collaborative learning activity by questioning current ways of thinking, analyzing and modeling social entrepreneurship ventures, and conducting thought and action experiments concerning possible changes in their communities.

Main aim of this eight days training course taking place in Latvia is to promote active citizenship and participation of young people and to contribute to developing the capabilities of civil society organizations in the youth field through gathering knowledge in social entrepreneurship area and through formation and development of competencies essential for initiation and development of social entrepreneurship activities by non-governmental non-profit organizations. Encouraging self-initiative and developing the capability to analyze obstacles and opportunities within a social sector and identify potential strategies to effect change in the sector are other important objectives of the project.

Program is based on the experiential learning model and focuses on developing independent mind habits, entrepreneurship and
The experiential learning model integrates social entrepreneurship cases which address Millennium Development Goals as a framework for positively affecting society.

The course highlights number of approaches and strategies to achieve social change. The first part of the course introduces learners to the concept of social entrepreneurship and its various applications across sectors and organizational forms. Furthermore it examines the changing context in a globalizing world and the success factors and conditions of setting up social enterprise. Through the program participants are expected to create value for their organizations through making a community project with potential to stimulate transformations and improvements in their chosen area, whether that is education, health care, economic development, environment, arts or any other social field - participants will create and develop plans for local or international social entrepreneurship activities: new entities or innovative projects, partnerships or other arrangements that will have and impact on existing organizations and social outcomes.

**Profile of the participants**

We expect 2 participants from organization, male and female. Participants should be in age from 18 to 30 and display:

- Keen interest in the course and motivation to attain its objectives.
- Active engagement in the work of the sending organization or eagerness to start own initiative within the sending organization.
- Potential team leadership abilities.
- Willingness and time for preparing several home tasks during six weeks preparation period and continuous sharing of thoughts and reflections on the project blog.

Program will be most relevant for people in charge for fundraising in organizations and for project managers and leaders of small organizations. All the participants from the same organization should be able and willing to meet each other and work in team at least for two months period also after implementation of the course.

**Main roles of the participants**

- Read assignments, investigate topics, plan activities and work on writing their business plans, keep a learning journal and write blog on internet, help in promoting the project through sharing links to project website, shooting photos and videos, writing and proposing to organizational and mass media articles covering their experience during this project.
- Share own experience and expertise.
- Develop social entrepreneurship venture initiative - new entities, innovative projects, partnerships and other arrangements that will have an impact on their organizations and social outcomes.
In the period from 01.09.2011 to 22.10.2011 all participants have to complete three following home tasks. Work can be done individually or cooperation with other participant from the same country:

1. CHECKING LEGAL CONDITIONS. Participants will make a small research about legislation in their countries that regulates work of NGOs and their economical activities, as well as social entrepreneurship ventures.

2. SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN PRACTICE. Participants will meet and write an interview with one social entrepreneur from their countries. All the interviews will be published on the project website.

3. 10eur EXERCISE OR START YOUR OWN BUSINESS! In this assignment, each participant is expected to start his or her own business beginning on September 12. The participant is required to start a business that sells products or offers services using 10eur or less. Participants are allowed to spend more money on their businesses, but the additional funding has to come from their business’ profits. While in the process of starting and running their businesses, participants will write and publish a blog in which they detail the thoughts, actions, and responses they have during the process. Exercise will finish at October 22. Or participants might choose continue to develop their businesses - world experience shows that starting with 10eur during five weeks you can make hundreds and even thousands.

Selected participants of this course will receive more information about the home tasks and they will have a chance to consult with trainers during entire preparation stage.

other conditions

This course is implemented with financial support from Youth in Action Programme. Participation in the project is free of charge. Accommodation, food and insurance will be covered. Travel expenses will be covered in amount of 70 percent on condition that participant has used cheapest means of transportation and provided boarding passes and invoices for plane tickets, train and bus tickets. Full time participation in entire course programme is another important condition for receiving reimbursement.

Travel costs limits (per person, 100 percent):
10eur for Latvia
50eur for Estonia and Lithuania
150eur for Poland
300eur for Czech Republic, Slovakia, Sweden
400eur for Slovenia, Hungary, Romania, Greece and Portugal.
Introduction and ice-breaking
Expectations and challenges
Personal and project aims

Team-building
Wish list

Presentation and evaluation of 10 euro exercise

Me in the role of leader and entrepreneur?

Exploring individual motivations and assessing learning needs

Introduction to social entrepreneurship process and project management

Idea factory of social entrepreneurship initiatives and projects

Getting to know each other in informal atmosphere

Award of New Entrepreneur

International food passion night

Mid-term evaluation

Intercultural dialogue through music and dance

Concept development
Identification of resources needed and social rewards

Factory of marketing ideas and slogans

Presenting and evaluating elaborated social entrepreneurship projects

Teaching initiative and entrepreneurship to young people

Return to Riga and trip back home

Factory of self-financing and fundraising ideas

Business plan modelling for social entrepreneurship project

Project presentation Identifying next steps Mid-term evaluation

Factory of initiative and entrepreneurship education tools

Teaching initiative and entrepreneurship to young people

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