



NGEUROPE

ACTIVE CITIZENS · THRIVING COMMUNITIES

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Newsletter 1

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The training course took place in the library of Lousada

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1 NGEurope: Promoting European social cohesion through leadership and change engagement by NGOs

The NGEurope project engages in active citizenship and works to enable local community groups within Europe move towards true sustainability. This is achieved by empowering citizens and local actors as the project offers opportunities for people to develop their skills and extend their knowledge. With the actions taken and opportunities provided in the project, green entrepreneurship is fostered through socially inclusive and sustainable practices and by boosting employment and the efficient use of natural and social capital. The focus lies on NGOs across Europe that tackle environmental issues while also concentrating on social aspects such as providing employment and internship opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds.

The project has developed a hands-on course, which trains future and current NGO staff alike. Course participants can gain key competences which will allow them to embrace sustainability and align their individual expectations with nature conservation, social inclusion and economic growth.

2

Training course in Lousada, Portugal

The first NGEurope training course took place June 2018 in Lousada, Portugal, and was an experience of mutual benefit for both trainees and trainers. Trainees from five different countries came together to learn more about social and green NGOs, exchange their views and share their ideas. Throughout the five days of intensive course work, they were able to understand the basics about social entrepreneurship, and how it is different from traditional enterprise. Interactive learning helped the trainees to have new experiences and explore issues about “who, why and how” in connection to NGOs. A variety of tips and tricks for creating, managing, supporting, and financing NGOs gave them the opportunity to develop and cultivate an entrepreneurial mind-set.

One of the outstanding aspects of this international training course was the opportunity for an intensive interaction and exchange of cultures, emotions, perspectives, and experiences. The trainees analysed the skills they already had and they learned new ones, which they should develop further in order to become successful social or green entrepreneurs.

The NGEurope trainers used their expertise to guide the trainees on their way to reach the course goals in a positive and encouraging learning environment. They motivated the course participants to give their best and to practice how to become social leaders. Everybody had the chance to take an active role in the learning experience. Trainers and trainees alike were excited to be part of this European experience.



Training course in progress

The group of NGEurope trainees at a site visit in Portugal



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3 A trainer's thoughts on the course

Sofia Jervis: The NGEurope Training Course is a very good opportunity for everyone who wants to start a project in their community. Entrepreneurship can be a difficult process and it comes with several obstacles. Our goal with this course, as trainers, is to share our knowledge and experience, some tips and resources that will help to overcome the difficulties inherent to being an entrepreneur or NGO leader. Being able to work with people from other countries allows everyone – trainers, trainees, and project partners – to understand how different various processes can be for everyone, but also how similar things are – sharing the same fears and doubts, the same motivations and dreams.



Sofia Jervis, NG Europe trainer from Portugal



Discussing how NGOs work all over Europe

4 What trainees said about the first edition of the NGEurope training course

“This is a perfect course for students who lack experience and want to widen their horizon”.

“The trainers and the other participants exceeded my expectations”.

“I had the opportunity to meet some beautiful and inspirational people”.

“The multicultural experience, the chance to do some networking and the organisation of the course were particularly good”.

“The part about business models and the examples on financial management were especially interesting for us as trainees”.



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Visit our website at www.ngeurope.net
to find out more about the NGEurope programme!



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