

GABROVO INNOVATION CAMP 2022 RESILIENT CITIES

Challenge Name: *Youth Entrepreneurship for Digital Future*

GENERAL

Theme	<p>The challenge is related to build opportunities for young people to develop their entrepreneurial skills and mind through digital solutions. Opportunities are critical for entrepreneurship, and its identification is a precondition to the existence of entrepreneurs. Identifying opportunities capable of addressing an unsolved problem or need is the very first step. Searching for new opportunities is a very contextual-dependent activity, as opportunities are shaped by external circumstances and by the characteristics of a community. Further, under the presence of the same concrete circumstances, different people can perceive opportunities differently. The ability to seize opportunities is influenced by several personal factors, such as previous education, past experiences, values and attitudes.</p> <p>The identification and generation of new ideas require individuals a permanent state of alertness, but also demand creative thinking. Once again, cultural, social and personal contexts play an important role in foster or neutralize idea generation.</p> <p>A recent trend observed in many European countries is the use of new technologies to attract and bring people together to generate new ideas or mobilize resources.</p>
Challenge-owner and Organisation	Gabrovo Youth Center and Gabrovo Municipality
Contact person (if different than above)	Irena Boynovska – manager of Gabrovo Youth Center

Challenge-OWNER DESCRIPTION (background)

Young people are not just the future of Gabrovo, they are our present, and it is therefore essential that we have a plan to support their expression, tailored to their needs, priorities and ambitions, which contributes to the better development of the city and the region. It is our responsibility to create favorable conditions for young people to develop their talents, to be supported and inspired and to associate their future with the future of Gabrovo. Gabrovo Youth Center and Gabrovo Municipality have the ambitious goal of working purposefully and actively to make the region attractive to young, active and enterprising people.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT of the Challenge

Young people are keen to take control of their lives and engage with and support others. When taking control, they experience several typical transitions in their personal life and environment, from education to work, living on their own, partnerships or starting a family life. Many face uncertainties about their future, as a result of globalisation and climate change, technological change, demographic and socioeconomic trends, populism, discrimination, social exclusion and fake news with yet unknown effects on jobs, skills or the way our democracies work.

By involving and empowering all young people, challenge owners can contribute to successfully meeting the vision of a place where young people can seize opportunities and relate to European values.

What is our role for strengthen youth entrepreneurship:

- Get families and communities on board.
- Develop business, technical and life skills for use.
- Think carefully about how to support young people to access finance.
- Use mentors and set clearly defined goals.
- Be ready to adapt approaches for different contexts.

DESCRIPTION OF MAIN ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES and OBSTACLES

Main Issues
<p>There exists a long-standing debate on whether entrepreneurship can be taught or if it is an innate ability. Howard H. Stevenson, Sarofirm-Rock Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School, explains teaching entrepreneurship with the following metaphor: “even if people have innate musical talent, you can’t necessarily teach them to become Beethoven. But if they have the innate talent, then they probably would benefit from piano lessons. There are some things that in fact you can help people learn. They can learn either at the school</p>

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of hard knocks or by coming to class and building understanding.” By the same token, these individuals can learn by being engaged with youth entrepreneurship programs.

What can we do? How can we support youth entrepreneurs?

The access to financial support is very limited for young people. How can we improve this?

Do we need to create programs for Youth Entrepreneurship Support?

How can the ideas and actions of different stakeholders contribute to achieve common goals and create a better win-win situation for all?

Underlying Issues

We would like you to help us to develop new regional experiences and ideas for building opportunities on the following issues:

- Stakeholder engagement aimed at promoting entrepreneurship skills and opportunities
- Collaboration among regional bodies, youth organizations and young people to promote sustainable projects for entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Digital tool that gives opportunity for better entrepreneurial self development or a focus on peer networking (ambitious youths meeting other entrepreneurial youths) as well as traditional student-to-business-leader networking is beneficial in helping youth gather contacts, build confidence, and identify team members for their present and future ventures or both?

Opportunities

Innovation Camp methodology offers an opportunity to collectively analyse the Challenge and propose new ideas involving different stakeholders on a participatory bottom-up approach.

The Proposal for new opportunities that we can offer or realize for young people in order to develop themselves in the digital era of entrepreneurship and also creating stronger relationships between our institutions, young people and other organizations for youth development, youth workers etc.

Obstacles

How to develop new financial ways for giving more opportunities for young entrepreneurs?

MAIN CHALLENGE OBJECTIVES

2 or 3 bullet point sentences describing each objective. Describe in more detail if necessary.

- develop a prototype idea for better Innovation on new financial models and boosting stakeholders' engagement at regional level in the implementation of opportunities for young people aged between 15 and 29 years.
- out of the box ideas on what such processes can bring to business models and the job market for regional collaboration

Relevant Stakeholders and stakeholder organizations

YMKA Gabrovo – NG youth organization; District administration Gabrovo, Bulgarian red cross.

CHALLENGE GROUP MEMBERS: Potential participants at the camp

Group member suggested by Challenge-owner

The Challenge owner should suggest participants who are responsible for / relevant to following through on the results after the Camp. We strongly recommend that 2 people from the Challenge owner's organisation take part in each Workgroup.

Name	Email		Organization	Expertise
Stefan Georgiev		https://www.lead-change.info/team	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Bulgaria	Trainer in the field of youth and researcher
Martin Yankov			Kolektiv Foundation	Landshaft architect and event manager
Ilko Boyadjiev			Foundation Community for addiction preventing	Coach, manager of the foundation, working with young people in their self development

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Ivelina Mincheva			Foundation Community for addiction preventing	PR in the foundation, working with young people, volunteer
Misho Yantra?				
Ivo Tepavski			National Aprilov High School/ YMKA Gabrovo	Teacher, trainer and background as a youth worker and volunteer
Marian Serafimov			Self employed	Young entrepreneur, working with 3D printers for developing different trendy goods.
Nikola Vasilev			Student in Technical University Gabrovo	Software and computer engineer
Irena Boynovska		http://youth.gabrovo.bg/	Manager of Gabrovo Youth Center	Working with young people aged between 15- 29 years/ expert in European projects at national level
Aleksander Kolev		http://youth.gabrovo.bg	Youth worker in Gabrovo Youth Center	Working with young people aged between 15- 29 years/ participatong in Erasmus projects
Aleksandar Popov			Student in Sofia University	Arabic studies
Borislava Hristova			Student in 11 grade of 12 th high school in Gabrovo	
Radoslav Dimitrov			Student in 11 grade of Professional technical school in Gabrovo	
Nikola Laleva			Student in 11 grade 12 th school in Gabrovo	

Background documents for the participants in our group (investigate further):

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1079&langId=en>

https://youth.europa.eu/strategy_en

https://youth.europa.eu/strategy/european-youth-goals_en

https://youth.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2010-2018_en

<https://youth-goals.eu/>