

Feedback on PromYSE: PROMoting youth social entrepreneurship training event

It must be said that I have not participated in any similar trainings before Promyse that is why my experience is very excited and memorable at the same time. On the other hand, as a social policy student I have gained quite a lot of knowledge about Social enterprise which I believe will be useful in the future. There are few things I would like to point out.

First of all, I was very surprised by how differently Social enterprise was understood and interpreted by each participant of the trainings. I knew, that SE differs in every country, but somehow, I believed that being a part of EU leads to similar interpretation. I think that country presentations played an important role in making the trainings successful. They made the concept of social enterprise more common to everyone and led to a valuable discussion on what are the essentials of it. I think our understanding of the phenomenon evolved throughout entire week of trainings. I loved it, because it made me rethink what I thought I knew.

Moving on, all modules were meaningful in a sense that I easily realized why the training included them exactly, and how are they important in creation of SE. I believe that we succeeded in viewing SE as a whole and understanding its importance to our society. However, I felt a lack of explanation on the financial part of the SE, while the social side of it was well covered through activities we participated in. I think, it is also great that all modules were easily understandable, and I cannot exclude one for being more useful than the others. However, in some cases I thought that it was a bit too simple and shallow. On the other hand, we are not professionals, we come from different backgrounds and when you take all of the circumstances into account it's understandable.

Moreover, I loved that trainings were not only theoretical but also practical. Visits to local best practices enriched the understanding of SE and made it more *real* as they say: "It's better to see something once than to hear about it a thousand times.". Once again, during the visits I enjoyed the stories and discussions. Finally, I must admit, that after a while what I value the most is not only the knowledge I gained, but also the people I met. I have never spent so much time with foreign people and it was a great pleasure for me to improve my team working, communication, problem solving skills. I have learned a lot about other countries and cultures. I can only state that it was valuable not only in understanding SE, but also in getting to know myself and others. In short – I would do it again.

Faithfully, Vaida Ališauskaite