

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

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SUCCESS STORY

New Entrepreneur

Name and Surname: Agata Kwiatkowska

Country: Poland

Age: 24

Status: Would-be entrepreneur or Start up? Choose one option Start - up

Sector: Social economy/responsible entrepreneurship/CSR

Name of business/website: Regenerate the Future

Picture:



Host Entrepreneur

Name and Surname: Antonio Vasconcelos

Country: Portugal

Age: 62

Experience: 35+ years exp. in Strategy (business + sustainability) consulting, entrepreneur, co-leads ecosystem with a sustainability movement and a university

Sector: Professional services, NGO, Academia

Name of business/website: The Natural Step Portugal/ www.thenaturalstep.org (international website); part of an ecosystem that he also co-leads: Planetiers New Generation and INSURE.Hub – Innovation in Sustainability and Reperation

Picture:



Details of exchange:

Date of exchange: 5.12.2022 – 5.03.2023

Duration of exchange: 3 months

Brief introduction (max. 1.000 characters): Who are the participants, how did they discover EYE, why did they decide to participate, what were the expected benefits,...

Agata Kwiatkowska is a 24 years old NE from Poland. She heard about the EYE from her friend, who participated in the programme. NE decided to take part in EYE because she wants to start her own business. Participation in Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs Programme gives NE an opportunity to gain the knowledge about running a business, see from the inside how to manage the company and understand the market, as well as learn about disruptive and circular innovation based on systems thinking, sustainability, and regeneration. All the acquired knowledge and skills will enable NE provide diverse services and offer better quality products.

Activities undertaken (max. 1.000 characters): Examples, description of the relationship between the two entrepreneurs ...

During EYE Programme NE undertook various activities which have helped her to move towards the planned objectives. NE get equipped with a comprehensive, science and business-based toolkit for running her future business namely business model financial viability and go-to-market build-up. NE learned how to differentiate between strategic and tactical planning as well as how to combine all the business units – from business model to strategy, execution and revisit the initial business plan to strengthen. HE equipped NE with knowledge of top international sustainability frameworks based on systems thinking in real business contexts as part of broader business and sustainability strategy which NE will use for the development of her venture's services and products, as well as prepare her for working with international partners and clients in the field of sustainability.

Benefits achieved (max. 1.000 characters): Future prospect of cooperation, skills developed, contacts made...

NE got exposure to a vibrant ecosystem of thought leaders, business leaders, entrepreneurs, innovation researchers, and academics. NE gained organizational skills - working with clients while preparing courses and training programs and expanding the range of services and products. In parallel, NE gained from HE knowledge of top international sustainability frameworks – such as the Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development or The Natural Step, and Planetary Boundaries – based on science and systems thinking; this was complemented by an understanding of: i. a nature-based framework Gunter Pauli's ZERI/ Blue Economy); ii. a comprehensive plan to reduce emissions and reverse global warming (Project Drawdown) – a vast array of solutions which NE will use for the development of her venture's services and products. Participating in daily projects and activities of the organisation gave NE important insights for running a business offering high quality services.

Quotation regarding the experience: (NE max. 300 characters)

Participation in EYE Programme gave me a unique opportunity to see the insights of running a business that offers high quality services in the field of sustainability, as well as to broaden my knowledge on system thinking, regeneration and Planetary Boundaries disruptive and circular innovation.

Quotation regarding the experience: (HE max. 300 characters)

It is always very rewarding to work with future entrepreneurs like the NE, a committed and cooperative participant in the team. NE integrated very well in our projects' team, and I look forward to keep developing an international collaboration with her and her venture.

Picture (NE + HE together)



NE and HE working together on the project in the office at Tech Labs in Lisbon, Portugal

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