# WOMEN'ACT Accelerate European Edition #2

Bringing together women entrepreneurs



## **ABOUT EMPOW'HER**

Empow'Her is a social venture working for women's empowerment, creating tools and opportunities for women to thrive as entrepreneurs.

We believe in every woman's right and capacity to improve their own economic status and wellbeing and to participate in and contribute to our societies. Our trainings and support programs are designed to answer to women's specific needs and are adaptable depending on the context in which we operate.

+ 7000

Women entrepreneurs
have been supported in
the development of their
enterprise

20

Countries of operation (Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia) 80%

Of our entrepreneurs believe that taking part in our programs enabled them to develop their enterprises.



## Women'Act Accelerate

Empow'Her's regional program in Europe & West Africa

Women'Act Accelerate is Empow'Her's regional program which aims at bringing together international communities of women changemakers to help them scale their ventures.

The program currently exists in two regions: Europe and West Africa.

More concretely, it is a 6-month both online and face-to-face program, designed to foster connections and synergies between women social entrepreneurs at the regional scale and provide them with all the necessary tools and resources to scale up their project and grow their initiatives!

Launched in 2020, the Women'Act Accelerate programs it's:

35

Women changemakers supported

2

International communities

12

Countries represented

## Why supporting women-led social enterprises in Europe?

Empow'Her's European study

Between January and October 2019, Empow'Her investigated the under-researched field of social entrepreneurship and the role women play as leaders and founders of impactful initiatives across Europe.

More specifically, we analysed the difficulties women face as social entrepreneurs and their support needs to thrive in their entrepreneurial journey.

47%

Cite the **lack of funding** as their main difficulty <sup>2</sup>

57%

Of companies surveyed have an annual **turnover** below 50K <sup>2</sup>

63%

Of respondents believe that women's **lack of self-confidence** inhibits their development <sup>2</sup> 87%

Are willing to join in a program dedicated to women social entrepreneurs <sup>2</sup>

Moreover, we found out that supporting women changemakers has a broader impact on women's empowerment: our impact studies show that when we support ONE woman in developing her business, we contribute to the economic empowerment of +40 women and girls!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Empow'Her (2019), Women-led social enterprises in Europe.

## Women'Act Accelerate – 2<sup>nd</sup> European Edition

6-months online and face-to-face program

As a member of the Women'Act Accelerate community in Europe, you will join the first european network of women social entrepreneurs. Once selected, we will meet twice a month during 6 months for both online and face-to-face sessions!

More concretely, through this program, we offer:



3 Online workshops 3 Co-development sessions 3 Inspirational talks with

successful women changemakers



1st to 4th of December 2021

4 days to connect with fellow women changemakers, develop your leadership and dive into Lisbon's unique ecosystem!



5 hours of individual exchange with European experts, to help you overtake your challenges of the moment!

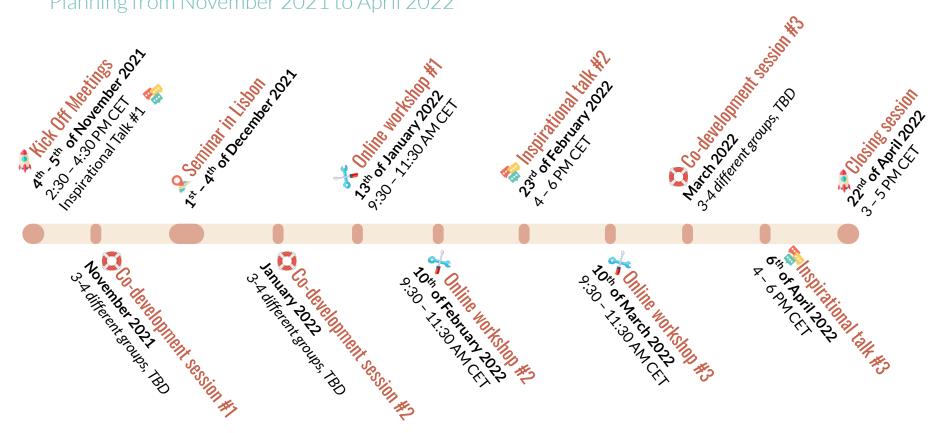


A private LinkedIn group to share your successes, needhelp, and stay updated on the latest European opportunities!

- Workshops animated be European experts on burning issues such as impact measurement or European funding;
- Co-development sessions designed to solve your challenge of the moment thanks to collective intelligence;
- **Inspirational talks & exchanges** with experienced women entrepreneurs on specific topics!

## **Program's planning**

Planning from November 2021 to April 2022



## How to join?

#### Criteria and next steps

The Women'Act Accelerate programs support women changemakers in the acceleration phase. Our goal is to support growing projects, already generating concrete social or environmental impact, in scaling up and multiplying their reach!

#### Women'Act Accelerate in open to any women entrepreneur who:



Has launched a social organization active for at least 3 years



Generates a concrete social or environmental impact through her project;



Is established in in one of the 27 EU countries as well as UK, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Norway and Iceland;



Is willing to join a unique community and wishes to receive support to grow her business and scale her initiatives!

The call for application closes on **September 26th.** Selected applicants will be contacted for jury sessions during which we will exchange more precisely on your project and needs. These interviews will take place on **October 11th-12th.**Once selected, we will all meet to Kick Off this new cohort, on **November 4th and 5th (2:30pm CET - 4:30pm CET)**, for two 2-hour online sessions

## The european community

They took part in the program



Joanna PRUSZYŃSKA-WITKOWSKA - Poland Founder of Future Collars

FutureColllars is Innovative online school designed to introduce and educate career changers to the field of technology. It provides intensive, practical online bootcamps, with expert and helps generate dignified jobs for people in need with enrolment programs for disabled, young mothers from public foster houses and unemployed in remote areas.



**Petra Rahn – Germany**Founder of BildungsProfis

Bildungsprofis gGmbH, is working to improve access to the labour market for people with a refugee or migration background. As part of an innovative concept, Bildungsprofis empowers and qualifies participants for a professional perspective in the health professions.



**Sonia Fernandes – Portugal** Founder of Pista Mágica

The NGO Pista Mágica was funded in July 2008 with the vision to "create the bases for volunteering to be the hands of the combat against inequalities in the world. In the battle for a better world it is also necessary to possess skills. We want to change the expired paradigm of solidarity that sustains its pillars on "goodwill" to a new and emergent paradigm that should be sustained in "doing-well".



**Bianca Pouw - Netherlands**Founder of Impact Spots

Impact-Spots is a Dutch social enterprise that is planning to open an **all-female social workshop**. Their aim is to change the lives of vulnerable, yet strong, women. In their social workshop they give them work experience and a bigger chance to get a (paid) job.

"I feel much more empowered as a woman and social entrepreneur thanks to all the women of our group!"

## The european experts

They intervened during the 1st European edition



Aurélie Salvaire
PCC Coach, Founder of ShiftBalance
Hosted the co-development sessions and a workshop on Story telling
Based in Spain



Alexandre Sourzac-Lamy
Co-founder of Comit
Hosted the workshop how to adapt the business model in the acceleration phase
Based in Germany and France



Veerle Klijn
Head of Policy & EU Relations at Euclid
Network
Hosted the workshop on European funding
Based in Netherlands



Miriam Davidovic
Founder of Roshem Impact, Co-founder of RAZ Finance
Hosted the workshop impact measuring



Wieteke Dupain
Head of Knowledge, Research &
Development at Euclid Network
Hosted the workshop on European funding
Based in Netherlands



Carolina Almeida Cruz
Founder of C-More, chairwoman at Sapana
Hosted the workshop impact measuring
Based in Portugal

# **They trust us**Our European partners





























## **CONTACT US**

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