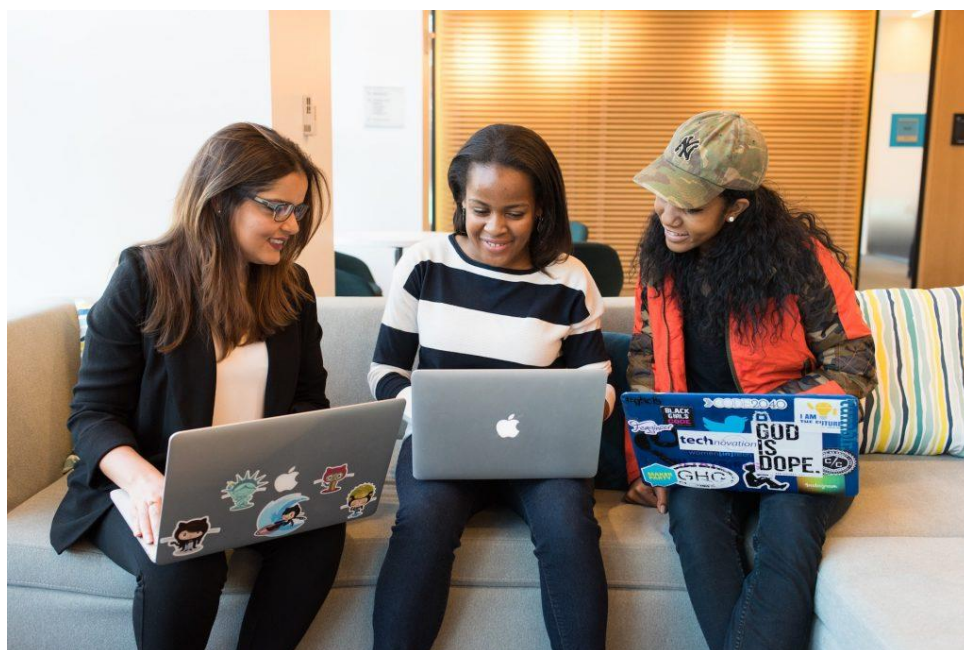


FA-ST Project Overview

The FA-ST project provides opportunities of empowerment and development to young women affected by socioeconomic or other barriers (migrants background, weak family support, early school leavers), and inspires them to start a business in the STEM sector (science, technology, engineering, mathematics)

FA-ST: Promote Female Start-Ups in STEM

This is the 2nd Newsletter of project FA-ST (*Fast prototyping and entrepreneurial skills to promote female founded start-ups in STEM*). The project is funded through the Erasmus+ Programme mechanism KA205 - Strategic Partnerships for Youth (2019-2-CY02-KA205-001594).



Contents

Project Status

Project Meetings

Spotlight: Youth Board of Cyprus

FA-ST Resources



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

FA-ST Project Impact

The FA-ST program guides and empowers young women through the process of gaining a sense of themselves as entrepreneurs. At the same time the project supports them in being recognized as such, and ultimately succeed in developing their own business. STEM has been chosen to be the target sector of growing young women competences, as there is solid evidence that the fastest growing and highest-wage jobs in future years will be in STEM-related industries and organisations.

Project Status

Naturally, the FA-ST project has been **affected** by the **continuous lockdown measures** which have been enforced in all project consortium countries.

Despite these adverse environmental conditions, FA-ST partners have managed to **finalise** the **production of all Intellectual Outputs**, as these have been **originally envisaged**, by heavily exploiting the existence of electronic communication and coordination tools and mechanisms. In particular, the following tasks have been accomplished:

FA-ST STEM Literacy (IO1): *A digital catalogue has been developed, reviewed, and finalised, which includes an inventory of tools, examples, exercises, reading or experiments that educators can use to plan and implement practical exercises and conduct STEM themed workshops.*

FA-ST Entrepreneurial Program (IO2): *A blended learning program has been developed, reviewed, and finalised, which comprises of activities aimed at increasing transversal skills and entrepreneurial mind-set of young women, nurturing their capacity for self-determination and growth, managerial skills and other skills essential to those willing to start a business.*

FA-ST Start-up Program (IO3): *A program and a corresponding web platform has been developed, reviewed, and finalised. focuses on guiding participants to shape a strong product vision. This vision will be refined and evaluated with the help of local experts and entrepreneurs.*

FA-ST Educators Guide (IO4): *A digital guide providing educators with comprehensive theoretical information and practical tools for the implementation of the FA-ST Program, has been developed, reviewed, and finalised.*

The **piloting activities** for these products are expected to take place **during the second semester of 2021**, given that the Covid-19 situation will allow their implementation in the consortium countries.

Finally, the project consortium has completed a wide range of **project management, coordination, quality control, and dissemination activities**. Real-time information about FA-ST activities is provided through the project's web facilities (page 5 of this newsletter).

FA-ST Project Benefits

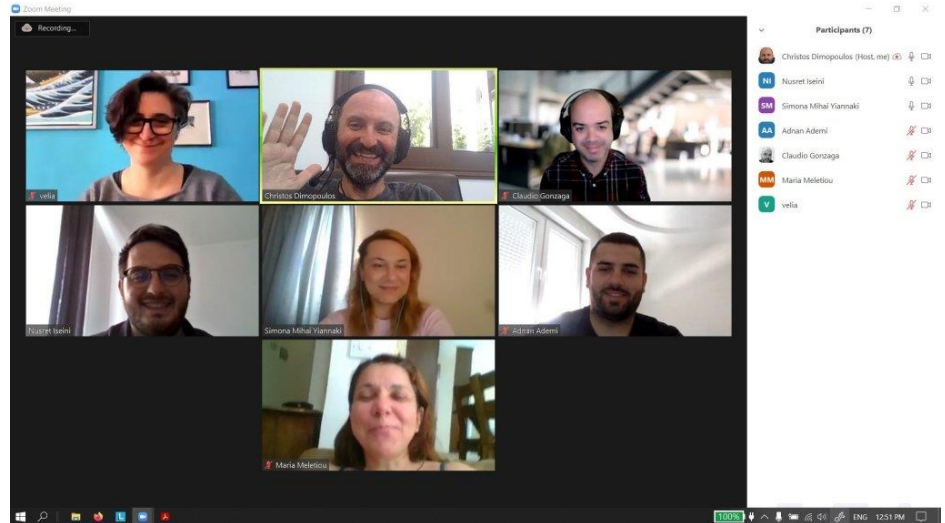
The benefits of participating in the FA-ST program for the young women participants are significant. They include, but they are not limited to, the following:

- Increased capacity for introspection, self-awareness, motivation and self-drive
- Increased employability prospects
- All-around improvement of the so-called '21st century skills'
- Increased confidence

Project Meetings

The FA-ST consortium has been very active in planning and implementing a **significant number of project communication and coordination activities** in order to balance the adverse effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The FA-ST consortium has implemented **one (1) physical meeting** (the project's kick-off meeting in Cyprus), **three (3) virtual online meetings** (in direct replacement of physical meetings which could not be implemented due to the pandemic restrictions), as well as **eight (8) regular online meetings** in total. All these meetings refer to **project-wide communication and coordination meetings**, and do not include the numerous meetings which have taken place between at the level of Intellectual Output production.



Since the publication of the project's 1st Newsletter, **two (2) virtual online meetings** have taken place in direct substitution which were originally planned to take place according to the official project description. The project's **2nd virtual online meeting** took place on the **20th of January 2021**. The project's **3rd virtual online meeting** took place on the **1st of June 2021**.

During these meetings, the project partners were able to confirm that they have **managed to implement their planned production activities** and **achieve their respective production objectives**. These meetings also provided the opportunity for the project partners to **exchange ideas** and **propose plans** regarding the implementation of the piloting activities, considering the current **adverse**, and **dynamically evolving** environment.

About the Youth Board of Cyprus

The Youth Board of Cyprus is the National Authority for Youth affairs. It was founded in 1994. Since the beginning of its operation the organization has offered young people multiple opportunities for active participation in social activities in Cyprus and abroad.

Contact details:

Athalassas Avenue 104, 2024,
Strovolos Sofocles Tower

00357-22402600/2

<https://onek.org.cy/en/>

info@onek.org.cy

Spotlight: Youth Board of Cyprus



Activities

The Youth Board of Cyprus offers a variety of youth work programmes and funding schemes for youth work. The Youth Board of Cyprus is also the top-level authority responsible for the coordination and monitoring of the National Youth Strategy.

Erasmus+

The Youth Board of Cyprus is the responsible National Agency for the Youth field and the non-formal learning part of the European Program Erasmus+. As such, it is the National Agency responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the 'FA-ST' project.



Vision

"To establish an Organisation that sets young people to the core of its actions, inspiring and empowering them to pursue their ambitions and dreams"

Mission

"We believe in the power of youth. We offer young people an impetus that allows them to reach their full potential through modern policies, innovative programmes and high-quality services"

Inspirational Words

“Don't let anyone rob you of your imagination, your creativity, or your curiosity. It's your place in the world; it's your life. Go on and do all you can with it, and make it the life you want to live”

Mae Jemison

First African-American woman astronaut in space



FA-ST Resources

A wide range of **communication channels** is available to all stakeholders who wish to learn more about the FA-ST project's activities.

Don't hesitate to **contact us**, join our **network pages**, and **become a member** of the **FA-ST community!**



fasterasmus.com



fasterasmus@gmail.com