



FA-ST: Promote Female Start-Ups in STEM

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This is the 1st 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**.



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Project Overview

by Dr. Christos Dimopoulos, Project Manager, European University Cyprus

Welcome to our 1st project newsletter! **FA-ST** is an **ambitious and highly entertaining Erasmus+ Youth Project**, which is being implemented by [partners from Cyprus, Italy, North Macedonia, and Portugal](#).

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).

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**.

Moreover, in the future all employees will increasingly need to **engage in knowledge-based economies, and utilize problem-solving STEM skills** for a wide range of occupations.

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**

For **more information on the project**, please **visit the official website** at the following location:

<https://www.fasterasmus.com>

You can also **contact us** through **mail** or use our range of **social networks**. **Full contact information** is available in **page 5** of this newsletter.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE



Project Status: How the Covid-19 Pandemic affects FA-ST activities

What is the project's current status? How is its implementation affected by the Covid-19 pandemic?

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1st Project Meeting in Cyprus

Learn more about the kick-off meeting of the FA-ST project, which took place in Nicosia, Cyprus, on the 24th of October 2019

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The FA-ST Program

by Ms. Valeria Elia, Quality Manager, IULM

The FA-ST learning environment is shaped around **three operational stages**. Each stage is associated with a **corresponding project stage** and materializes through a **specific product** prepared by the partners. This learning architecture provides a **framework for increased exploitability** by the users and can be easily adapted to the participants' needs or local conditions. The combined products offer a **complete and unique learning experience** which allows young women **to develop a start-up in the STEM sector**, based on their original entrepreneurial idea.



FA-ST Project Status

by Dr. Christos Dimopoulos, Project Manager, European University Cyprus



Despite the **significant disruption** caused by the **Covid-19 pandemic** in the operation of the participating organizations of the FA-ST project, **the partners have managed to implement the majority of the planned activities and achieve their respective intermediate objectives**. In general, the consortium adopted the **strategy of focusing and prioritising** the implementation of tasks **which were feasible under the circumstances**, and **shifting forward** the implementation of **piloting activities** which are currently infeasible due to state restrictions / regulations. In particular:

STAGE 1: The **production activities** of this stage **have been successfully completed as planned**. It is currently impossible to proceed with the piloting phase for this project stage due to Covid-19 restrictions. **Early 2020** is foreseen as a likely period for the implementation of stage 1 piloting activities.

STAGE 2: The **production activities** of this stage **have also been completed**, with the external review task still to take place in order for the respective product to be finalized for piloting. Piloting activities are also impossible to implement for this stage due to Covid-19 restrictions.

STAGE 3: The production activities of this stage **are currently being finalized**.

In addition, the project consortium has completed a **wide range of project management, coordination, quality control, and dissemination activities**, with a **full-scale project awareness campaign** ready to be implemented within the following calendar months.

Up-to-date information about FA-ST activities is provided **through the project's social network facilities** (links available in page 3 of the newsletter).

The **kick-off meeting** of the FA-ST project took place successfully on the **24th and 25th of October 2019** at the premises of **European University Cyprus in Nicosia, Cyprus**. The meeting was chaired by **Dr. Christos Dimopoulos**, co-Director of CERIDES and project manager of FA-ST. It was attended by representatives from all partner organisations, namely:

Ms. Valeria Elia (Libera Universita Di Lingue E Comunicazione, IULM)

Mr. Claudio Gonzaga (PontoPR – Publicidade e Robótica, Ida)

Nr. Nusret Iseini (Center for Educational and Cultural Development (RACIO))

The meeting was also attended by **members of the EUC team** who will participate in the implementation of the project on behalf of CERIDES:

As the Covid-19 pandemic **has de facto constrained the implementation of physical meetings**, no further meetings of this type were conducted during the previous months. Nevertheless, the FA-ST project has

FA-ST Project Meetings

by **Dr. Christos Dimopoulos**, Project Manager, European University Cyprus

successfully **exploited online facilities** and tools, and has been able to **implement five (5) online meetings, and one (1) virtual day-long meeting** during the last 5 months of the project implementation.



Join FA-ST

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@gmail.com





fasterasmus.com

