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Green Work for Youth

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PROJECT PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE	"Eco-Start: the Future in Sustainable Agriculture".		
SUBMITTED BY		SUBMITTED TO	
PHONE / EMAIL		RECEIVER PHONE / EMAIL	
DATE SUBMITTED		PROJECTED START DATE	

PROJECT NAME AND DESCRIPTION

Project 'Eco-Start: the Future in Sustainable Agriculture'.

Project description:

Project Objective:

The project "Eco-Start: the Future in Sustainable Agriculture" aims to educate young people at risk of social exclusion about sustainable farming practices and prepare them for employment in the organic farming sector. The programme aims to increase the employability of participants in the face of the transition to a more sustainable economy.

Thematic scope:

The project covers a wide range of topics related to sustainable agriculture, including:

1. Fundamentals of organic farming - learning about the principles and methods of growing crops without the use of artificial fertilisers and pesticides.
2. Permaculture - an introduction to designing sustainable farming systems that mimic natural ecosystems.
3. Agroecology - understanding the interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment in the context of agricultural production.
4. Biodiversity - the importance of maintaining biodiversity in agriculture and methods to support it.
5. Practical techniques - hands-on workshops including composting, vegetable growing, soil and water management.

Schedule and methods of implementation:

The project will run for 12 months and includes the following stages:

1. Recruitment of participants - selection of young people at risk of social exclusion through cooperation with local organisations and schools.
2. Theoretical training - a series of lectures and seminars given by experts in organic farming.
3. Practical workshops - hands-on training on local organic farms, where participants will be able to put the knowledge they have gained into practice.
4. Mentoring and support - providing participants with mentors to help develop skills and prepare them for the labour market.
5. Evaluation and certification - assessing participants' progress and awarding certificates confirming the skills acquired.

Project results:

1. Increased environmental knowledge - participants will gain a broad knowledge of sustainable agriculture.
2. Development of practical skills - through practical workshops participants will learn techniques they can use in their future work.

3. Increased employability - the skills and knowledge gained will improve participants' competitiveness in the labour market, particularly in the organic farming sector.
4. Promotion of sustainable practices - the project will contribute to the promotion of organic farming methods and sustainable development in local communities.

Project partners:

- Local organic farms - cooperation in organising practical workshops.
- Experts and specialists - providing theoretical training.
- NGOs - helping to recruit participants and mentoring support.

Summary:

The project "Eco-Start: a Future in Sustainable Agriculture" is a comprehensive educational programme that aims to increase the environmental knowledge of young people at risk of social exclusion and prepare them for work in the sustainable agriculture sector. Through theoretical and practical training, participants will acquire skills that will enable them to find jobs and actively participate in building a greener economy.



PURPOSE / GOALS

Objectives:

1. To raise awareness of organic farming methods.
2. To prepare participants for work in the organic farming sector.
3. To develop practical skills that can be used in future employment.

ASSUMPTIONS

Assumptions of the Project "Eco-Start: Future in Sustainable Agriculture".

1 Main objective of the project:

The aim of the "Eco-Start" project is to increase the level of ecological knowledge among young people at risk of social exclusion and to prepare them for work in the organic farming sector. The project also aims to increase their employability in connection with the transition to a more sustainable economy.

2 Specific objectives:

- Environmental education: Increase awareness of sustainable farming practices and organic farming methods.
- Practical skills: To develop practical skills related to organic farming through workshops and training.
- Employment: To increase the employability of participants through the acquisition of specialised knowledge and experience.
- Promotion of sustainability: Encourage local communities to adopt sustainable farming practices.

3 Target group:

The project targets young people at risk of social exclusion, in particular those from disadvantaged backgrounds who have limited access to education and vocational training.

4 Project activities:

- Theoretical training: A series of lectures and seminars given by experts in organic farming, covering topics such as agroecology, permaculture, and biodiversity.
- Practical workshops: Hands-on workshops on local organic farms where participants will be able to put the knowledge they have gained into practice, learning how to compost, manage soil and water, and grow crops, among other things.
- Mentoring: Individual support from mentors who will help participants develop skills and prepare for the labour market.
- Certification: Participants will receive certificates confirming the skills they have acquired, making them more competitive in the labour market.

5 Expected outcomes:

- Increased knowledge: Participants will gain a broad knowledge of sustainable agriculture.
- Skills development: Through practical workshops, participants will learn agricultural techniques that they can use in their future work.
- Increased employability: The skills and knowledge gained will improve participants' employability in the organic farming sector.
- Promotion of ecology: The project will contribute to the promotion of organic farming methods and sustainable development in local communities.

6 Project partners:

- Local organic farms: Partners in organising practical workshops.
- Experts and specialists: Providing theoretical training.
- NGOs: Helping to recruit participants and mentoring support.

Summary

The project "Eco-Start: Future in Sustainable Agriculture" is a comprehensive educational programme that combines theoretical training with practical workshops to increase the environmental knowledge and vocational skills of young people at risk of exclusion. By working with local farms and experts, the project will not only increase the employability of participants, but will also contribute to the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices.

MEASUREMENTS OF SUCCESS

Measurement of Success for the Project "Eco-Start: the Future in Sustainable Agriculture".

1. Participation and Engagement Metrics:

- Number of Participants: Track the number of youth who enroll and complete the program. A high retention rate would indicate effective program engagement.
- Attendance Rates: Monitor attendance for both theoretical sessions and practical workshops. High attendance rates suggest that participants find the program valuable and engaging.

2. Knowledge and Skills Acquisition:

- Pre- and Post-Training Assessments: Conduct assessments before and after the program to measure the increase in participants' knowledge about sustainable agriculture. Improved scores would demonstrate successful knowledge transfer.
- Practical Skill Evaluations: Use practical exams and hands-on assessments during workshops to evaluate the participants' proficiency in sustainable farming techniques.

3. Employment Outcomes:

- Job Placement Rates: Track the number of participants who secure employment in the agricultural sector or related fields within six months of completing the program. This is a direct indicator of the program's impact on employability.
- Internships and Apprenticeships: Measure the number of participants who obtain internships or apprenticeships as a result of the program. These opportunities can lead to long-term employment.

4. Long-term Impact:

- Follow-Up Surveys: Conduct surveys at 6-month and 12-month intervals post-completion to gather data on the participants' career progress, continued use of sustainable practices, and overall satisfaction with the program.
- Sustainability Practices Adoption: Evaluate how many participants implement sustainable agriculture practices in their personal or professional lives. This can be assessed through self-reported data and follow-up interviews.

5. Community and Environmental Impact:

- Community Projects: Count the number of community initiatives or projects started by participants that focus on sustainable agriculture. This indicates the broader social impact of the program.
- Environmental Benefits: Track specific environmental outcomes, such as the amount of land converted to sustainable farming practices or reductions in chemical fertilizer and pesticide use, as reported by participants.

6. Partner and Stakeholder Feedback:

- Feedback from Farms and Mentors: Gather qualitative feedback from partner farms, mentors, and industry experts about the performance and preparedness of the participants. Positive feedback would indicate the program's effectiveness.
- Satisfaction Surveys: Conduct satisfaction surveys with all stakeholders, including participants, instructors, and partners, to evaluate the perceived success and areas for improvement.

7. Certification and Accreditation:

- Certification Rates: Measure the percentage of participants who successfully earn certifications at the end of the program. High certification rates would indicate that participants are meeting the program's learning objectives.

8. Program Improvement:

- Continuous Improvement: Use data collected from various metrics to make informed decisions about program enhancements. Regularly updating the curriculum based on feedback and assessment results will ensure the program remains relevant and effective.

By systematically collecting and analyzing data across these metrics, the success of the "Eco-Start: the Future in Sustainable Agriculture" project can be accurately measured, ensuring it meets its goals of educating youth and improving their employability in the green economy.

RISK FACTORS

Risk Factors for the Project "Eco-Start: the Future in Sustainable Agriculture".

1. Participant Engagement and Retention:

- Lack of Interest: Participants might lose interest or motivation over time, especially if they face personal challenges or if the content does not engage them effectively. This could result in high dropout rates.
- Commitment Levels: The target group, being youth at risk of social exclusion, may have unstable living situations or other commitments that make consistent participation challenging.

2. Financial Constraints:

- Funding Shortfalls: Insufficient funding can impact the quality and scope of the project. This could lead to inadequate resources for training materials, expert instructors, and practical workshops.

- Cost Overruns: Unforeseen expenses, such as higher-than-expected costs for materials or transportation, can strain the project budget.

3. Logistical Challenges:

- Location and Accessibility: If the training sites (e.g., farms for practical workshops) are not easily accessible to all participants, this could hinder attendance and participation.
- Resource Availability: Limited availability of necessary resources, such as training equipment or organic farming supplies, could affect the quality of the training.

4. Quality of Training:

- Expert Availability: Finding and retaining qualified experts and trainers in sustainable agriculture might be challenging, potentially affecting the quality of education provided.
- Training Effectiveness: The training methods and materials might not be effective for all participants, particularly those with different learning styles or educational backgrounds.

5. Employment Opportunities:

- Labor Market Conditions: The success of the project relies on the availability of employment opportunities in the sustainable agriculture sector. Economic downturns or lack of job openings in this field could limit the effectiveness of the program.
- Employer Perception: Employers may be hesitant to hire youth from marginalized backgrounds, despite their new skills, due to biases or preconceived notions.

6. External Factors:

- Policy Changes: Changes in agricultural or educational policies could impact the project, such as new regulations that affect organic farming practices or funding for educational programs.
- Environmental Factors: Adverse weather conditions or natural disasters could disrupt practical training sessions held on farms, impacting the hands-on learning experience.

7. Social and Psychological Barriers:

- Participant Backgrounds: The target group may face various social and psychological barriers, such as low self-esteem, lack of support systems, or trauma, which could affect their engagement and success in the program.
- Cultural Barriers: Differences in cultural backgrounds and language barriers might pose challenges in effectively delivering the training and ensuring understanding among all participants.

8. Sustainability of Impact:

- Long-Term Engagement: Ensuring that participants continue to apply what they have learned after the program ends can be challenging. There is a risk that without ongoing support, the impact of the training may diminish over time.
- Community Support: The success of the project partly depends on the support from the local community and stakeholders. Lack of community engagement and support can hinder the project's outcomes and sustainability.

Mitigation Strategies

To address these risk factors, the project could implement the following mitigation strategies:

- Engagement Strategies: Develop engaging and interactive training modules, provide personal mentorship, and create a supportive learning environment.
- Secure Funding: Diversify funding sources and create a detailed budget plan to anticipate and manage costs effectively.
- Accessibility: Choose central locations for training and provide transportation support if needed.
- Quality Assurance: Recruit experienced trainers and regularly evaluate and improve training materials and methods.
- Employer Partnerships: Build strong relationships with employers in the sustainable agriculture sector to facilitate job placements.
- Policy Advocacy: Stay informed about relevant policies and advocate for supportive regulations.
- Support Systems: Provide psychological and social support for participants to help them overcome personal barriers.
- Community Engagement: Involve the local community and stakeholders in the project planning and implementation to ensure broader support and sustainability.

By anticipating and addressing these risk factors, the project can improve its chances of success and make a meaningful impact on the lives of participating youth.

APPROACH

Approach of the Project "Eco-Start: the Future in Sustainable Agriculture".

The project "Eco-Start: the Future in Sustainable Agriculture". adopts a multifaceted approach to educate and empower youth at risk of social exclusion, focusing on sustainable agriculture as a pathway to employment in a green economy. The approach is structured around several key components, each designed to address different aspects of the participants' education and skill development.

1. Participant Recruitment and Selection:

- Target Group: The project targets youth aged 16-25 who are at risk of social exclusion. This includes individuals from low-income families, those with limited access to education, and those facing various social and economic challenges.

- Outreach and Collaboration: Collaboration with local NGOs, schools, community centers, and social services to identify and recruit eligible participants. Outreach efforts will also include informational sessions and community engagement activities to raise awareness about the project.

2. Theoretical Education:

- Curriculum Development: A comprehensive curriculum covering fundamental concepts of sustainable agriculture, including agroecology, permaculture, and organic farming techniques. The curriculum will be developed in collaboration with agricultural experts and educators.

- Interactive Learning: Use of interactive teaching methods, including workshops, group discussions, and multimedia presentations, to make theoretical knowledge accessible and engaging.

3. Practical Training:

- Hands-On Workshops: Conduct practical workshops on local organic farms where participants can apply their theoretical knowledge. These workshops will cover soil management, composting, crop rotation, pest management, and other sustainable farming practices.

- Real-World Experience: Partnering with local organic farms and agricultural businesses to provide participants with hands-on experience and exposure to real-world farming operations.

4. Mentorship and Support:

- Mentorship Program: Pairing participants with experienced mentors from the agricultural sector who can provide guidance, support, and industry insights. Mentors will help participants set career goals and navigate the challenges of entering the workforce.

- Support Services: Providing additional support services, such as career counseling, soft skills training, and personal development workshops, to address the holistic needs of the participants.

5. Certification and Accreditation:

- Skill Certification: Participants will receive certification upon completion of the program, which will validate their acquired skills and knowledge in sustainable agriculture. This certification will be recognized by local agricultural organizations and employers.

- Accreditation: The program will seek accreditation from relevant educational and agricultural bodies to ensure the quality and credibility of the training provided.

6. Employment and Further Education Opportunities:

- Job Placement Assistance: Providing job placement assistance and creating linkages with employers in the sustainable agriculture sector. This includes organizing job fairs, networking events, and internship opportunities.

- Pathways to Further Education: Facilitating pathways for participants to pursue further education in agricultural studies through partnerships with vocational schools and agricultural colleges.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Continuous Assessment: Implementing a system of continuous assessment to monitor participants' progress and adapt the program as needed. This includes regular feedback sessions, surveys, and evaluations.

- Outcome Tracking: Tracking long-term outcomes such as employment rates, further education enrollment, and the application of sustainable farming practices by participants.

8. Community and Stakeholder Engagement:

- Community Involvement: Engaging the local community and stakeholders in the project through events, volunteer opportunities, and awareness campaigns. This fosters a supportive environment for the participants and promotes the benefits of sustainable agriculture.

- Stakeholder Collaboration: Collaborating with stakeholders, including local government, agricultural organizations, and environmental groups, to ensure the project's sustainability and scalability.

By integrating theoretical knowledge, practical skills, mentorship, and support services, the "Eco-Start: the Future in Sustainable Agriculture" project aims to provide a comprehensive and empowering learning experience for youth. This holistic approach not only enhances their employability but also contributes to the broader goal of fostering a sustainable and resilient agricultural sector.

Project Duration: 12 months

Month 1: Project Initiation and Planning

- Project Launch: Official launch of the project with a kick-off meeting involving all stakeholders.
- Recruitment: Start the recruitment process through partnerships with local NGOs, schools, and community centers.
- Curriculum Development: Finalize the curriculum and training materials in collaboration with agricultural experts.

Month 2: Participant Selection and Orientation

- Selection: Complete the selection process of participants.
- Orientation Sessions: Conduct orientation sessions to introduce participants to the project goals, structure, and expectations.
- Mentor Pairing: Pair participants with mentors from the agricultural sector.

Month 3-4: Theoretical Training

- Theoretical Sessions: Begin the theoretical training sessions covering sustainable agriculture topics such as agroecology, permaculture, and organic farming.
- Interactive Workshops: Conduct workshops and group discussions to reinforce theoretical knowledge.

Month 5-6: Practical Training

- Hands-On Workshops: Start practical training on local organic farms, focusing on soil management, composting, crop rotation, and pest management.
- Real-World Experience: Provide opportunities for participants to engage in real-world farming operations through farm visits and internships.

Month 7: Mid-Project Review and Evaluation

- Progress Review: Conduct a mid-project review to assess the progress of participants and the effectiveness of the training.
- Feedback Sessions: Collect feedback from participants, mentors, and trainers to identify areas for improvement.
- Adjustments: Make necessary adjustments to the training program based on the feedback received.

Month 8-9: Advanced Training and Skill Development

- Advanced Workshops: Conduct advanced workshops on sustainable agriculture practices and emerging technologies.
- Soft Skills Training: Provide additional training on soft skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.

Month 10: Certification and Job Placement Preparation

- Certification Preparation: Prepare participants for certification exams by conducting review sessions and mock tests.
- Job Readiness Workshops: Organize workshops on resume writing, interview skills, and job search strategies.
- Networking Events: Facilitate networking events with potential employers and industry professionals.

Month 11: Certification and Evaluation

- Certification Exams: Administer certification exams to participants.
- Final Evaluations: Conduct final evaluations to measure participants' knowledge and skills.
- Awarding Certificates: Award certificates to participants who successfully complete the program.

Month 12: Graduation and Transition to Employment

- Graduation Ceremony: Organize a graduation ceremony to celebrate the achievements of participants.
- Job Placement Assistance: Provide job placement assistance and support participants in securing employment or further education opportunities.
- Post-Project Evaluation: Conduct a post-project evaluation to assess the overall impact and success of the project.

By adhering to this timeline and achieving these milestones, the project "Eco-Start: the Future in Sustainable Agriculture" aims to successfully equip youth with the knowledge and skills necessary for sustainable agricultural practices and improve their employment prospects in a green economy.

MILESTONE	DEADLINE
1. Project Launch and Recruitment	Month 1
2. Participant Selection and Orientation	Month 2
3. Theoretical Training Start	Month 3
4. Practical Training Start	Month 5
5. Mid-Project Review	Month 7
6. Advanced Training	Month 8
7. Certification Exams	Month 10
8. Graduation and Job Placement	Month 12

PROJECT COST AND RESOURCE ESTIMATE

Project Cost and Resource Estimate for "Eko-Start: Przyszłość w Zrównoważonym Rolnictwie"

1. Personnel Costs:

- Project Manager: €4,000/month x 12 months = €48,000
- Trainers (3 trainers at €3,000/month each): €3,000/month x 3 trainers x 10 months = €90,000
- Mentors (10 mentors at €500/month each): €500/month x 10 mentors x 10 months = €50,000
- Support Staff (administration, logistics): €2,000/month x 12 months = €24,000

Total Personnel Costs: €212,000

2. Training Materials and Resources:

- Theoretical Training Materials: €10,000
- Practical Training Supplies (tools, seeds, organic fertilizers): €15,000
- Digital Resources and Software: €5,000

Total Training Materials and Resources Costs: €30,000

3. Facilities and Equipment:

- Rental of Training Venues: €1,000/month x 12 months = €12,000
- Farm Equipment Rental: €2,000/month x 8 months = €16,000
- Classroom Equipment (projectors, computers): €8,000

Total Facilities and Equipment Costs: €36,000

4. Participant Support:

- Travel Expenses for Participants: €500/month x 12 months x 20 participants = €120,000
- Meals and Refreshments: €300/month x 12 months x 20 participants = €72,000
- Stipends for Participants: €200/month x 12 months x 20 participants = €48,000

Total Participant Support Costs: €240,000

5. Certification and Evaluation:

- Certification Fees: €100/participant x 20 participants = €2,000
- Evaluation and Assessment Costs: €5,000

Total Certification and Evaluation Costs: €7,000

6. Miscellaneous and Contingency:

- Marketing and Outreach: €10,000
- Miscellaneous Expenses: €5,000
- Contingency Fund (10% of total budget): €55,500

Total Miscellaneous and Contingency Costs: €70,500

OVERVIEW

Total Project Cost Estimate:
€595,500

Resource Estimate:

1. Personnel:

- 1 Project Manager
- 3 Trainers
- 10 Mentors
- Support Staff (administration, logistics)

2. Training Materials:

- Printed materials, books, manuals
- Practical training supplies (e.g., farming tools, seeds, fertilizers)
- Digital resources and software for online modules

3. Facilities and Equipment:

- Classroom space for theoretical sessions
- Farm facilities for practical training
- Equipment for both classroom and field activities (projectors, computers, farm tools)

4. Participant Support:

- Travel expenses
- Meals and refreshments
- Monthly stipends to support participants' living expenses

5. Certification and Evaluation:

- Certification for course completion
- Evaluation tools and assessment resources

6. Miscellaneous:

- Marketing materials for recruitment and outreach
- Contingency fund for unexpected expenses

This estimate provides a comprehensive view of the resources required and the associated costs for successfully implementing the "Eko-Start: Przyszłość w Zrównoważonym Rolnictwie" project, aimed at educating and empowering youth at risk of social exclusion through sustainable agriculture training.

NEEDS / INVESTMENT	COST
STAFFING - TECHNICAL	€198,000
STAFFING - FUNCTIONAL	€78,000
CONSULTATION	€60,000
TRAINING / DOCUMENTATION	€15,000
HARDWARE	€24,000
SOFTWARE	€5,000
OTHER	€310,500
ESTIMATE TOTAL	€690,500