



WOMEN ACT

Accelerate

European Edition #2

Questions and answers

Thank you for your interest in the Women'Act Accelerate program ! You will find below all the information regarding the **European edition** : participation rules, planning and cancellation policy.

If you have more questions on the program, **save the date for the information webinar dedicated to the program on September 8th, 6pm CET**

(Subscribe here : https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HaoUyeIBS7qkX0zq9o_bXQ)

You can also reach out to us on the following address : camille.prudhomme@empow-her.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

- **What is the Women'Act Accelerate program ?**

Women'Act Accelerate is Empow'Her's regional program which aims at bringing together international communities of women changemakers. During 6 months, we provide with regional networking opportunities and support to help them scale their ambitions.

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

Both program have the same content but are run independently. **The call for application for the European Edition is now open until September 26th 2021 !**

You wish to apply to the West African Edition ? Follow us on our social media to stay updated !

EUROPEAN EDITIONS

- **Why supporting women social entrepreneurs at the european level ?**

Between January and October 2019, Empow'Her with the support of the Prairial Foundation 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 analyzed the difficulties women face as social entrepreneurs and their support needs to thrive in their entrepreneurial journey.

Among the key learnings, we found out that :

47% of respondents cite lack of funding as their main difficulty

63% of respondents believe that women's lack of self-confidence inhibits their development

87% of respondents are willing to join in a program dedicated to women social entrepreneurs

In order to promote women-led social enterprises in Europe and to encourage more women to participate in and succeed in developing impactful initiatives, Empow'Her decided to launch Women'Act Accelerate in Europe !

→ Take a look at the study right [HERE](#)

- What does it mean to become a member of the European Women'Act Accelerate community ?

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 !

Concretely, Women'Act Accelerate it's :

- 4 days of seminar in Lisbon (1st-4th of December 2021) to connect with the community, strengthen your leadership, practice your pitch and discover Lisbon's unique entrepreneurial ecosystem;
- 3 online workshops hosted by european experts to help you scale your project;
- 3 online co-development sessions to solve your own challenges of the moment thanks to collective intelligence;
- 3 online sessions with experienced women entrepreneurs to get inspired, extend your network and share your stories;
- 5 hours of individual exchanges with european experts to address your key problematics;
- Access to the 1st european online community of women changemakers, through the private LinkedIn group !

- Is the Women'Act Accelerate program for me ?

The program is designed to support women social entrepreneurs in scaling up their project and gather them into a unique european community. We provide both online and offline support during 6 months, as well as access to the online community during and after the program.

By joining this community, you will get to meet and bond with fellow women changemakers from all over Europe, share your thoughts and challenges, help each other and get empowered !

Nonetheless, should you wish to join the program and the community, it is essential that you :

- Commit to attend to all the online sessions (max 2 sessions by month during 6 months) : as most of the sessions are based on collective intelligence, it is crucial for all the members of the cohort to take part and make them as efficient as possible.
- Commit to take part in the online community, even after the end of the 6-months support as the strength of the community relies on the commitment and solidarity between members.

- What is the selection process to join in the Women'Act Accelerate community in Europe ?

Once you have filled in the form ([Women'Act Accelerate EU#2 \(selecteev.io\)](https://selecteev.io)), our team will assess your application according to various criteria:

- The project's maturity according to the program's content;
- The proven impact of the project and its potential scaled impact;
- Your personal motivation and interest in joining the community;
- Your needs according to the program's content.

BI-MONTHLY ONLINE SESSIONS

- **What kind of sessions will be hosted online ?**

From November 2021 until April 2022, there will be 2 online sessions each month except for December (as we will meet in Lisbon).

There will be 3 kinds of online sessions :

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

Each session will last between 1,5 and 2 hours and will either be in the morning, during lunch break or late afternoon CET time.

- **Will I have to prepare something prior to the sessions ?**

2-hour sessions can be quite short to dive into complex topics such as European fundings for instance. To make sure these sessions will concretely allow you to scale up your initiatives, some workshop's hosts might ask you to do some preparatory work or fill in survey to better understand your needs.

- **I'm only interested in the seminar and do not wish to attend the online sessions, can I apply to the program ?**

No, being eligible to the program requires that you commit to take part in both online sessions and seminar. One of the main goal of this program is for women social entrepreneurs to form a united community across Europe. To do so, we ask all the selected participants to attend it all.

INDIVIDUAL EXCHANGES WITH EUROPEAN EXPERTS

- **Concretely, how these exchanges will be organized ?**

Each entrepreneur selected to join the European Women'Act Accelerate community has the opportunity to use up to 5 hours of individual exchange with European experts, throughout the 6 months of the programme. Each exchange will last up to 2 hours and can tackle various topics (management, fundraising, business model, scale-up, etc).

GATHERING IN LISBON (December 1st-4th 2021)

- **What will I be doing during the first Women Act Accelerate Europe gathering in Lisbon ?**

This 4-day seminar will be the opportunity to connect with fellow women social entrepreneurs and get inspired by a program built to provide you with tools to scale up your project and strengthen your confidence as a leader !

- Daily workshops hosted by Portuguese and European experts to strengthen your leadership skills and gain confidence on your strengths;
- Dedicated activities to discover Lisbon's unique entrepreneurial ecosystem;
- A pitch practicing session followed by a pitch night and individual coaching with Portuguese and European social entrepreneurship experts;
- A dedicated coach available throughout the seminar;
- Numerous activities and collective intelligence sessions !

PARTICIPATION FEES

- **Why are there participation fees ?**

A participation of 500€ per participant is required to become a member of Women'Act Accelerate Europe and to take part in the program.

The participation fee covers 20% of the actual cost of the program per entrepreneur (our partners and sponsors cover the rest).

This sum allows us to partially fund the program's logistics (coachs & experts, accommodation, catering, etc) and to ensure you are fully motivated and committed to join the program.

- **What is included in the participation fees ?**

The participation fees cover the whole seminar (accommodation, catering, workshops, coachs & experts, activities, etc) as well as the 6-months of online support and access to the online community.

Please note that the transportation to and from Portugal as well as during the seminar is not included in the participation fee (except for group activities outside Lisbon).

- **The fees represent a barrier to my participation, what can I do ?**

At Empow'Her, our 1st mission is to foster women's empowerment through entrepreneurship and we have at heart to keep our programs accessible to every woman willing to follow our courses. We consider that money should not be an obstacle to it.

Should the participation fees be the one reason you cannot apply to the program, please contact us at the following address and we will try to look for solutions together : camille.prudhomme@empow-her.com

AGENDA & NEXT STEPS

- **What are the next steps in the selection process ?**

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.

- **What are the key dates to keep in mind ?**
 - 4-5th of November, 2:30-4:30 pm CET : Online Kick-Off sessions
 - December 1st-4th : Seminar in Lisbon
 - Please find on this link, the program's planning (dates and times might be adapted throughout the program) : [HERE](#)

OTHER TOPICS

- **COVID-19 and cancellation policy : What if the evolution of the sanitary situation imposes to postpone the seminar ? What is the cancellation and refund policy ?**

We carefully follow the evolution of the sanitary situation. Should the situation make it impossible for us to meet in Lisbon from December 1st to 4th, we commit to postpone it later on.

If the sanitary situation makes it possible for us to organize the seminar in Lisbon, in due time, we will carefully apply the measures implemented by the Portuguese authorities. In any cases, the online content will be maintained.

- **Travel policy : What is the travel policy for the seminar ?**

The transportation to and from Portugal, as well as during the seminar is not included and it should be financed by the participant, in addition to the program fees (except for group activities outside Lisbon).

- **Food & accomodation : Are meals included in the participation fees ?**

All meals are included in the participation fees. However, as the seminar will begin on December 1st, at 1pm, the participants are expected to have had lunch prior to our meeting time.

- **Food & accomodation : Will there be vegetarian and vegan options ?**

Yes, it's a veggie friendly seminar :) We will make sure that vegetarian and vegan options are available for every meal.

If you have any other allergies or food intolerance, please let us know prior to the start of the seminar !