

Relationship number: RLT_

Period of Exchange: From 11th of November to 11th of April (5 months)

Brief introduction:

The project Innovation for Sustainable Tourism brings together both aspiring and experienced entrepreneurs who are committed to transforming the tourism sector in Europe through innovation and sustainability.

This was the case for the collaboration between the New Entrepreneur (NE), Federica Pia Cocomazzi, and the Host Entrepreneur (HE) Eduardo Mercado, established within the framework of the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs (EYE) programme. Both participants shared a strong interest in sustainable tourism and saw in the programme a valuable opportunity to exchange best practices, co-develop innovative and eco-conscious business models, and promote more responsible tourism experiences.

Their match focused on supporting SMEs and local authorities in adopting greener strategies, identifying relevant EU funding opportunities, and building a cross-border network of professionals committed to sustainable development in tourism. Through this collaboration, both NE and HE enhanced their practical skills, deepened their knowledge of sustainable tourism trends, and reinforced their joint commitment to a more environmentally and socially responsible tourism ecosystem in Europe.



Activities undertaken:

Throughout the exchange, the New Entrepreneur (NE) and the Host Entrepreneur (HE) collaborated closely to develop strategies aimed at helping SMEs and municipalities implement sustainable tourism practices.

Their joint activities included the co-organisation of workshops and webinars on eco-innovation, research into EU funding opportunities, and the development of digital tools for monitoring environmental impact. These initiatives reflected their shared commitment to advancing responsible tourism models.

The collaboration was grounded in mutual learning and complementarity: the NE brought fresh perspectives, academic insight, and research skills, while the HE provided practical expertise and access to a well-established network within the sustainable tourism sector. Together, they laid the foundations for future joint projects and explored opportunities for long-term partnerships, reinforcing their shared vision of a more sustainable and innovative tourism ecosystem.

Benefits achieved:

During the exchange, both the New Entrepreneur (NE) and the Host Entrepreneur (HE) strengthened their competencies in key areas. The NE acquired valuable skills in project management, sustainable tourism practices, and navigating EU funding mechanisms. At the same time, the HE benefited from a renewed digital perspective and an innovation-driven approach to sustainability, thanks to the collaboration.

Together, they established meaningful connections with stakeholders from the tourism and sustainability sectors,

New Entrepreneur:

Name & surname: Federica Pia Cocomazzi

Country: Italy

Age: 23

Status: *Would-be entrepreneur/Start-up*

Sector: Tourism

Name of business: /

Website: /

Host Entrepreneur:

Name & surname: Eduardo Mercado

Country: Belgium

Age: 30

Experience (years): 10

Sector: TIC

Name of business: SolMerk

Website: <https://solmerk.com>

significantly expanding their professional networks and opening the door to future opportunities.

Looking ahead, the NE and HE intend to continue their cooperation through joint project proposals, exchange of best practices, and further collaborative initiatives. The match also resulted in the development of a shared vision for promoting responsible tourism, laying the groundwork for a long-term partnership focused on sustainable growth and innovation within the sector.

Quotation regarding the experience:

NE: The Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme has been a transformative experience. It not only allowed me to share my passion for sustainable tourism but also opened doors to invaluable insights and collaborations across Europe. The exchange empowered me with the tools and networks needed to drive change in the tourism sector, fostering both personal and professional growth. I look forward to continuing this journey, together with my host entrepreneur, towards a more sustainable future for tourism.

Federica Pia Cocomazzi, New Entrepreneur

HE Federica showed great initiative, adaptability, and eagerness to learn. Her contribution brought fresh perspectives and added real value to our ongoing projects. It was a pleasure to host her and support her entrepreneurial journey.

Eduardo Mercado, Host Entrepreneur

For further information about the exchange:

- NIO/HIO, ___, ___: ___
- HIO/NIO, Instituto Tecnológico de Canarias, eye@itccanarias.org

For information on the programme and details on how to enroll visit:

www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu