

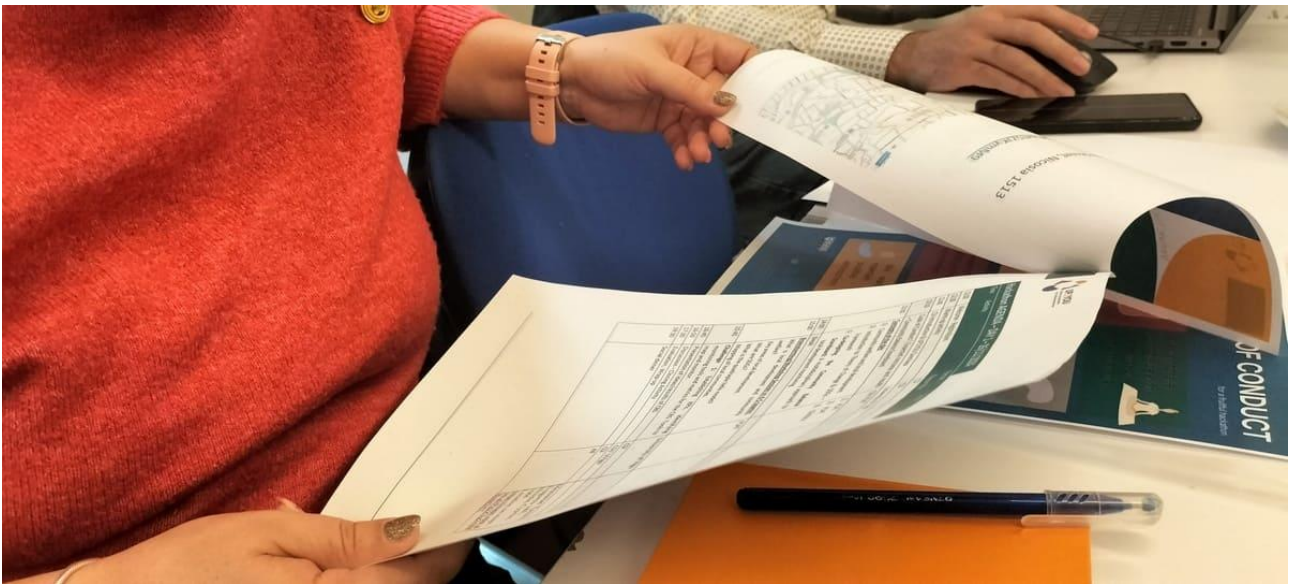
Up2You Newsletter #1: memories of Cyprus and new skills to improve ourselves

Dear Up2You Community,

We are thrilled to bring you the latest updates and milestones from the Up2You Erasmus+ Project. This month, we focus on the incredible outcomes of the Hackathon in Cyprus and the exciting opportunities provided by our online courses. Dive in and see how you can get involved!

Hackathon in Cyprus: Co-Designing the Future

From **November 26–28, 2024**, the Up2You Hackathon brought together students, educators, CSO professionals, and stakeholders from across six regions to embark on a collaborative journey in Cyprus. The goal? To co-design the **Community Balance Scorecard (CBS)**—a groundbreaking tool for measuring and enhancing community welfare and development.



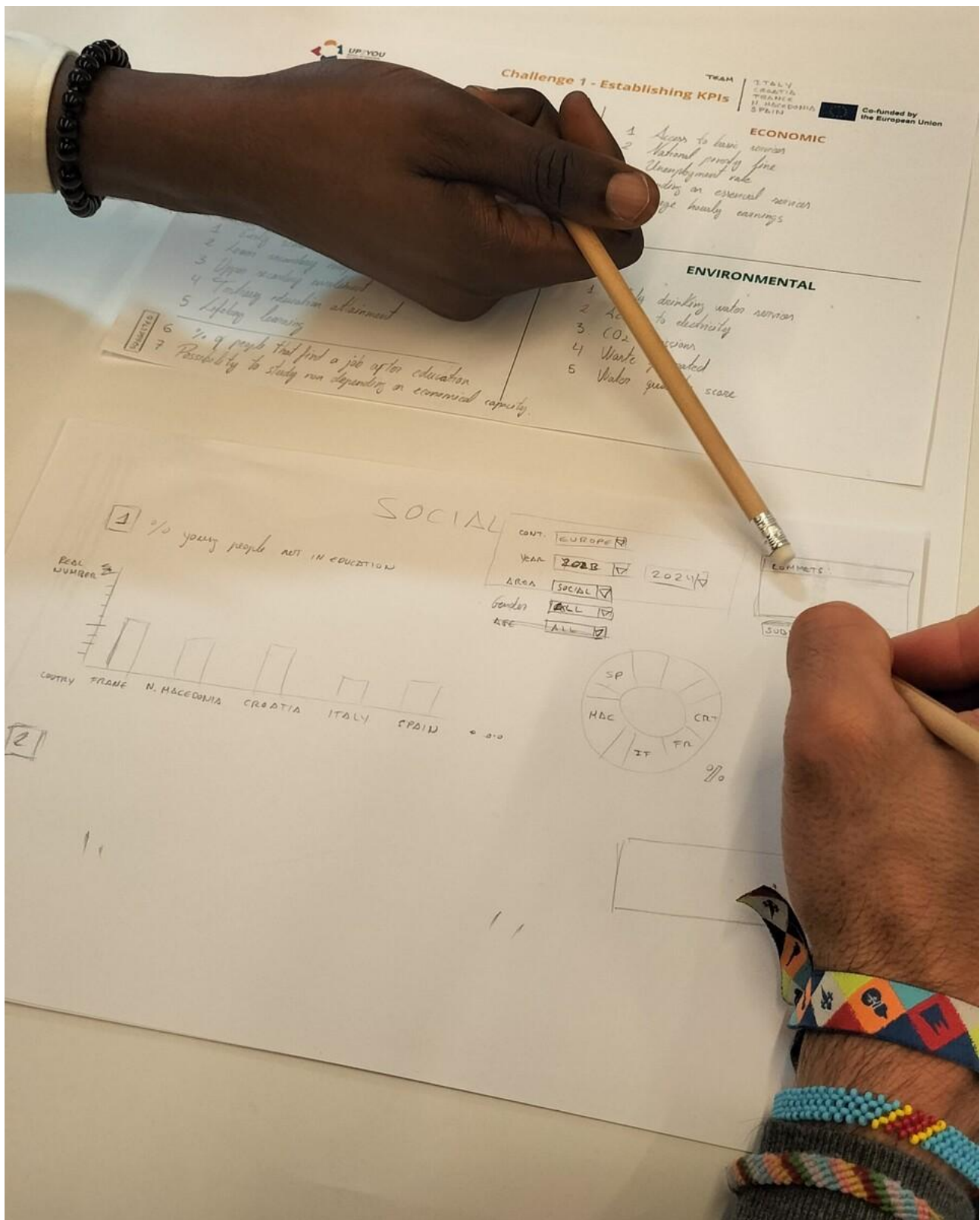
What is the Community Balance Scorecard (CBS)?

The CBS is an innovative framework designed to monitor and evaluate key aspects of community welfare, such as environmental sustainability, education, social cohesion, and economic growth. Think of it as a tailored report card that helps communities identify strengths, address challenges, and align their efforts with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By empowering communities with data-driven insights, the CBS fosters accountability, transparency, and informed decision-making for sustainable local development.

Why Did We Co-Design It Together?

Local development is a multidimensional challenge that benefits from diverse perspectives. By bringing together participants with varied backgrounds—students, educators, policymakers, and

civil society professionals—the Hackathon harnessed the power of collaboration and collective intelligence. This multidisciplinary approach ensured that the CBS is not only practical and inclusive but also adaptable to different local contexts.



Highlights and Outcomes of the Hackathon

The Hackathon wasn't just about brainstorming ideas—it was a dynamic, hands-on experience that inspired creativity, collaboration, and tangible results. Here are some key highlights:

- **Collaborative Exploration:** Participants worked in teams to map community needs, identify challenges, and propose solutions using participatory techniques like brainstorming sessions and interactive workshops.
- **Designing the CBS Framework:** Teams co-created key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure progress across various dimensions, such as environmental health, social inclusion, and education accessibility.
- **Innovative Solutions:** The event sparked creative ideas, including approaches to make the CBS user-friendly and adaptable to different technological capabilities. Proposals ranged from simplified digital dashboards to community-driven data collection methods.
- **Empowering Communities:** The CBS framework emphasized giving local stakeholders the tools to actively monitor progress, fostering a sense of ownership and agency.
- **Building Connections:** The Hackathon highlighted the value of collaboration, creating bridges between academia, civil society, and local authorities to work toward shared goals.

The Hackathon culminated in a consolidated CBS prototype—a scalable, actionable tool ready to guide communities in tracking their progress and fostering social cohesion. The energy and enthusiasm of participants underscored the power of teamwork in tackling complex challenges.



The Power of Collaboration

In today's rapidly changing world, local communities face growing challenges in achieving equitable and sustainable development. The CBS provides a practical way to measure progress, identify areas for improvement, and ensure accountability. By aligning local actions with global SDGs, it turns aspirations into measurable outcomes, empowering communities to thrive.

Watch the highlights of this inspiring journey and see how cooperation fuels change!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WFte64_HBw

The Hackathon was a testament to the strength of cooperation and the exchange of knowledge. By bringing together diverse perspectives, participants co-designed a framework that empowers communities to measure and enhance their development. As we move forward, the insights and ideas generated during the Hackathon will shape the development and implementation of the CBS across participating regions.

Stay tuned for updates on the development and rollout of the CBS, as well as testimonials from participants who made the Hackathon an unforgettable milestone in the *Up2You* journey. Together, we're building stronger, more resilient communities!

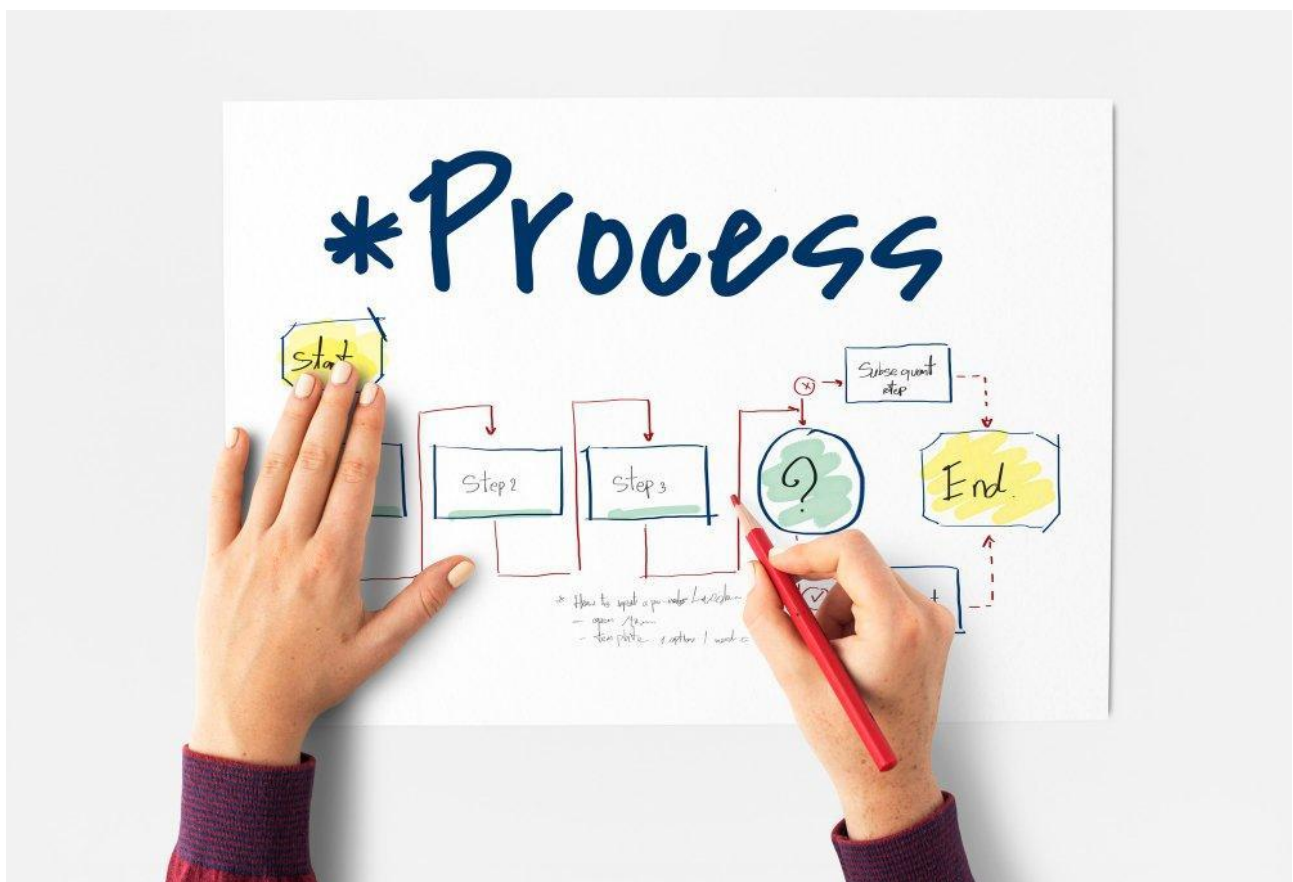


Discover the *Up2You* Micro-Courses: Empower Yourself

Looking to build your skills and drive change in your community? Our free micro-courses are designed to give you practical tools and insights for professional and personal growth. Whether you're a student, educator, or CSO professional, there's something for everyone!

Ongoing Courses: Unlock Your Potential Now

- **Master Your Project** (*Project Design and Management*)
Learn how to design and manage projects effectively, from planning to implementation. You'll gain skills in risk assessment, project documentation, and monitoring—perfect for leading impactful initiatives.
- **Finance Forward** (*Financial Management & Fundraising*)
Master the art of budgeting, financial planning, and fundraising strategies to take your projects to the next level. This course equips you with essential tools to manage resources effectively and secure funding.
- **Unlock Your Potential** (*Life Skills and Employability*)
Build key life skills, including conflict resolution, communication, and teamwork. This course focuses on enhancing your employability while fostering personal growth.



Coming Soon: Starting December and January

- **Bridging Gaps: Digital Skills for Civil Society**

Equip yourself with essential digital skills, such as social media management, cybersecurity, and data analysis. Perfect for CSOs looking to thrive in the digital age.

Start Date: December 16, 2024

- **Empower Your Community: Social Entrepreneurship & Innovation**

Dive into the world of social innovation and learn how to design sustainable solutions for local challenges. This course covers design thinking, strategic planning, and entrepreneurship.

Start Date: January 13, 2025

 **Registration is still open!** Visit [Up2You Erasmus](#) or use this link

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdWp0Sr6PZ800IZBUyQDz9 - aQVHf77TOfmdhwiJy_5dPDOjg/viewform to register & join.

Join the *Up2You* Community!

Become part of a network of changemakers dedicated to building resilient communities. By registering for our courses, you gain access to:

- Free certifications to enhance your profile.
- A supportive network of educators, CSOs, and professionals.
- Resources to drive impactful local development projects.

Spread the Word!

Help us expand our reach! Share this newsletter with friends, colleagues, and community members who want to make a difference.

Stay connected for more updates, inspiring stories, and project opportunities.

And keep an eye on the Up2You social media [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

Warm regards,

The *Up2You* Team