

## “Coop LAB – Cooperative Learning Across Borders”

Thessaloniki, Greece | 23–27 February 2026

The Center for Innovation and Development INOS participated in the European Youth Exchange “Coop LAB – Cooperative Learning Across Borders”, held from 23 to 27 February 2026 in Thessaloniki, Greece. The project brought together young people from seven European countries with the aim of promoting cooperative learning methodologies, social entrepreneurship, active citizenship, and intercultural understanding. INOS was represented by: 4 young participants from North Macedonia and 1 youth worker (group leader).



Coop LAB is designed as an international youth exchange based on cooperative pedagogy and experiential learning. Participants simulated the creation of youth cooperatives, allowing them to experience collaborative decision-making, shared leadership, and social entrepreneurship practices.

The project focused on:

- Cooperative learning methodologies
- Simulation of youth cooperatives
- Development of entrepreneurial and social competencies
- Promotion of European values and intercultural dialogue

The main objectives of the project were:

- Development of entrepreneurial skills through cooperative business models
- Strengthening teamwork, leadership, and project management competencies
- Promotion of active citizenship and youth initiative
- Fostering European belonging and intercultural awareness
- Encouraging inclusive participation, especially of young people with fewer opportunities



The Macedonian delegation consisted of four young people aged 16–19 and one youth worker. The participants: Demonstrated strong motivation for social entrepreneurship; Actively engaged in group discussions and workshops; Contributed ideas during the youth cooperative simulation; Participated in intercultural evenings and team-building activities The youth worker supported the group’s learning process, ensured inclusion, and facilitated reflection sessions.

As a result of participation, the Macedonian youth developed:

- Improved teamwork and communication skills
- Greater self-confidence and leadership abilities
- Understanding of cooperative business models
- Enhanced project planning and problem-solving skills
- Increased awareness of European values and intercultural cooperation
- Participants also improved their English communication skills and built international friendships and partnerships.



Participants, increased motivation for civic engagement, strengthened entrepreneurial mindset, expanded international network. As organization, INOS strengthened international cooperation, created new partnership opportunities, increased capacity in cooperative learning methodologies and enhanced visibility at European level.

Participation in Coop LAB significantly contributed to the personal and professional development of the Macedonian youth delegation. The project reinforced the importance of cooperation, solidarity, and youth empowerment across Europe. INOS remains committed to promoting international mobility, youth entrepreneurship, and innovative learning methodologies that strengthen active citizenship and sustainable development.

