



## **The Third Way – What is in it for you?**

The Third Way project was a Key Action 2 Erasmus project funded by the Erasmus + programme of the European Union. The outputs are now available for wider use.

Eight study modules were developed, plus an introductory module. These are available to all, via the Third Way website. As the project was funded by the EU, there will be no charge to any individual or institution using the online learning courses. They were developed to be accessible and widely used!

The available modules are:

- Financial Management
- Funding and Tendering
- Governance and Leadership
- Impact Management
- Management and Leadership
- Marketing and social media
- Project Management
- Starting up your Business

Anyone wishing to use any of the modules can do so by accessing the website at [www.thethirdway.com](http://www.thethirdway.com) and then registering to access the online learning courses. Registration is necessary so the system can recognise the learner, what stage they are on and to provide a certificate on completion of the module.

The beauty of the design of the modules is that they are completely stand alone, meaning that the learner can complete only one module, or all modules, and in any order they choose. The learner works at their own pace, to their own agenda. Free choice as well as free of charge – a winning combination!

### **Who would use the modules?..... Anyone with an interest!!**

The modules are available to you to study in your own time, so they offer maximum flexibility, and due to the nature of EU funding, they are free to all users.

Initially, the online learning modules were developed with the target group of students wanting to start or develop a social enterprise, BUT as work progressed it became clear that the modules could be applicable to a much larger audience.

**Opportunities for individuals** we can envisage the online learning modules being used by:

- Students and new entrepreneurs who do not have a business background.
- Business students to supplement their learning.
- Entrepreneurs and employees for personal development.
- Anybody looking to upskill for personal or career development.



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**Opportunities for educational institutes** we can envisage the online learning modules being used:

- As a preparation for a programme where there are students with mixed entry experiences.
- To offer to students as a method of expanding their studies in their own time.
- To offer additional studies for part-time students, as these modules can be completed at anytime, anywhere.
- To establish short programmes for “new” students, using the learning modules as the core curriculum.

**Opportunities for organisations**

- To offer opportunities for staff development.
- An opportunity for businesses to incorporate social objectives into their organisation.

**Background to the project**

The Third Way project was a Key Action 2 Erasmus project funded by the Erasmus + programme of the European Union that involved ten organisations from nine countries, Belgium, Belarus, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the UK. All partners worked on the project, between 2019 and 2022, the results of which are now available for use by anyone who is interested, and they can be accessed on the Third Way website at [www.thethirdway.eu](http://www.thethirdway.eu)

The project addresses the need to offer learning materials to support new or potential social entrepreneurs, where business studies may be their primary study area. What is on offer, however, goes well beyond that initial target group. What has been produced can be used by so many more learners from a wide range of disciplines.

The project was planned in three stages. The first, a consultation and investigation period – finding out what existing entrepreneurs felt were the items that all “need to know”. The second, the establishment of a framework for the creation of online learning courses. Learning modules were created by members of the project team. The third phase was about highlighting opportunities to develop the skills and knowledge of individuals through facilitating access to internships in (social) enterprises. The ‘phase’ we have now reached is one where the learning materials are available for anyone to use. For more details of the project / online learning modules, check out [www.thethirdway.eu](http://www.thethirdway.eu)



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