



# LEADERS 4FUTURE

## Breaking Barriers: First Results of the Project

We are excited to share the first results of the Leaders for Future project, which aims to empower young women entrepreneurs and strengthen youth organisations across Europe and the Western Balkans.

Over the past months, our consortium has worked on three major milestones:

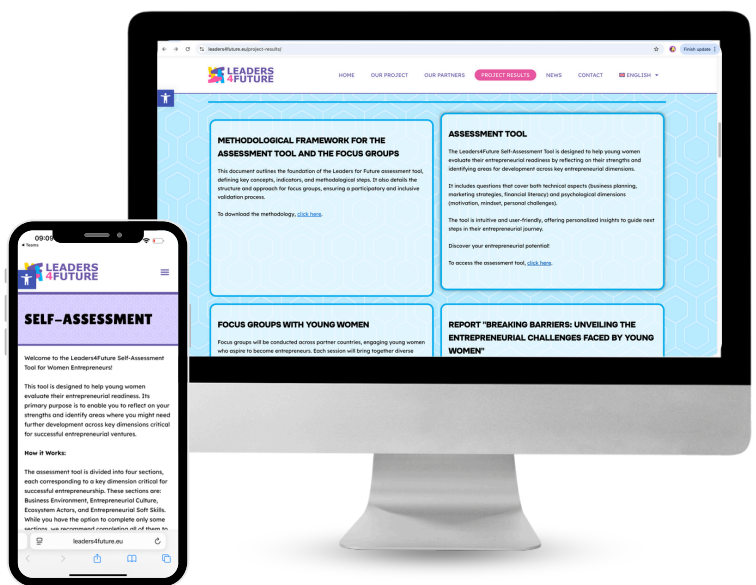
### 1 Development of the Self-Assessment Tool

### 2 Focus Groups in Partner Countries

### 3 Breaking Barriers Report

## 1. Development of the Self-Assessment Tool

We created an interactive self-assessment tool to help young women identify their entrepreneurial skills and areas for improvement. The tool covers both technical skills (financial literacy, business planning, digital marketing) and interpersonal skills (leadership, communication, networking). Feedback from participants confirmed that the tool is clear, inspiring, and effective in supporting self-reflection on their entrepreneurial journey.



## 2. Focus Groups in Partner Countries

Focus groups were organised in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Kosovo, Montenegro, Norway, and Spain, gathering 70 young women with entrepreneurial aspirations. Through discussions and piloting of the tool, participants shared their challenges and needs. Key barriers identified include:

- difficulties in accessing funding and professional networks,
- complex bureaucracy and lack of centralised information,
- gender stereotypes and family expectations,
- balancing business with care responsibilities,
- lack of female mentors and role models.

## 3. Breaking Barriers Report

Based on the findings from the self-assessment and focus groups, the consortium published the report “Breaking Barriers: Unveiling the Entrepreneurial Challenges Faced by Young Women.”

The report highlights:

- psychological barriers such as fear of failure and lack of confidence,
- critical gaps in financial literacy, business planning, and digital skills,
- the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work,
- limited access to inclusive support systems and funding opportunities.

These insights will directly inform the design of upcoming training materials, mentoring programmes, and national support points, ensuring they respond to the real needs of young women entrepreneurs.

## Whats next?

In the next phase, the project will:

- ➔ Finalise training materials for youth workers,
- ➔ Prepare local support points to provide long-term mentoring,
- ➔ Launch national workshops and the “Create Your Own Business Plan” contest.

## Stay connected!

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