

Annex 7: NGOs - Where to Start

Module 7 activity

Learning Goals

- This exercise is used to get the trainees considering the steps that are necessary to create an NGO.

Background Information

This exercise will allow the trainees to reflect on the first steps anyone needs to take before starting an NGO. Things like research other NGOs' work, decide if it's better to start an NGO from scratch or if it's more helpful to join in an existing one, verify the legal framework for the type of NGO, define their vision and mission, get people on your side who are also passionate about the same topic, etc.

Duration

20 minutes

Room Organisation

Trainees should work in groups. Members of each group are advised to sit next to each other.

Support material

Paper and pens or pencils.

Instructions

1. Read or let the trainees read the case scenario about "John" on slide 3 from the PowerPoint for Module 7:
 John is 32 years of age
 He's living in Ireland
 He's very concerned about climate change and food security
 He has basic training in organic farming from when he was 21
 He is also concerned about the high level of youth unemployment
 There are acres of unused land in his local community owned by the local authority
 He's passionate about addressing both of these issues. **He really wants to set up an NGO but he's not sure where to start.**

2. The trainees should form groups of 3 / 4 people and they are asked to list the steps John should take to start his NGO based on the information given and on their own knowledge and experience. Allow 10 to 15 minutes to this exercise.
3. Get feedback from each group and note points on a flip chart.
4. Discuss the points given by the trainees and put steps in order.
5. Trainer adds any steps omitted by the participants.

Possible Answers

- John needs to do a SWOT analysis on the idea of starting his NGO.
- John needs to research the legal requirements for setting up an NGO in his country.
- He needs to research other NGO's in his area and see can he join them or does he need to set up his own.
- John needs to research ownership of the land and explore the possibilities of him having access to it.
- He needs to make contact with any groups that are working with the unemployed youths to explore any collaborations.
- John needs to analyse his own skill set and see what skills he has and identify skill gaps. Can these be filled through his upskilling or are there other opportunities to collaborate with people who have these skills.

It is important at this stage to identify that John is still at the exploratory stage and is not ready to start an NGO. This is an opportunity to emphasise the importance of planning.