

Call for Applications: Social Businesses Training & Exchange Program (STEP-UP)

Are you an alumnus/alumna of one of the following Yunus Environment Hub programs CirculaRise (formerly known as Build Back Better), SHE Academy, GrowUp or StartNow? Are you running a social business in Kenya committed to solving environmental and social challenges? Do you dream of taking your social business to a global stage?

Yunus Environment Hub (YEH) and Pioneer Lab have partnered to establish an exciting **exchange program** for social businesses in Kenya and Germany. This is a unique opportunity for 2 selected social businesses from Kenya to visit (fully funded) Germany for 5 days and gain valuable insights into the German social business ecosystem as from 16th October to 20th October.

The program will cover all travel, accommodation and activity expenses for the selected social businesses (One participant from the organisation with a preference for the founder).

As a participant, you will benefit from:

1. Knowledge sharing and learning from social businesses, mentors and industry experts in Germany
2. Growing your network and exploring potential collaborations with German and international partners
3. Immersing in a new culture and deepening your understanding of operating in global markets
4. Identifying opportunities to adapt your business model and offerings for international expansion

If your social business meets the eligibility criteria below, we invite you to apply for this fully-funded exchange program by **13th September 2023**.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be an alumnus of YEH programs - CirculaRise, GrowUp Incubator, StartNow or SHE Academy
- Committed to solving environmental, social or economic challenges through your social business
- Keen to expand your social business globally and learn from social business entrepreneurs in Germany
- Valid passport to enable international travel
- Business has been in operation for at least 1 year
- Willingness to host a German social business during their visit to Kenya

To apply, click this [LINK](#).

About YEH

Yunus Environment Hub's (YEH) vision is to create a World of 3 Zeros: Zero Poverty, Zero Unemployment and Zero Net CO2 Emissions. To achieve this goal, YEH is developing and supporting social business solutions for environmental and social challenges that create opportunities along the value chain – for entrepreneurs or supporting organizations; using social business entrepreneurship as a vehicle to solve the most pressing issues of the planet, to ensure these solutions are financially self-sustainable and socially inclusive.

About Pioneer Lab

The [PIONEER LAB](#) at the Fresenius Universities supports founders and companies in all phases at our university locations throughout Germany. With 175 years of educational/entrepreneurial tradition and around 19,000 students, we live the “Great Place To Grow” in the breeding ground of entrepreneurial talent.

We connect a broad network of many regional locations into a large ecosystem and support around 2,100 square meters of coworking space, a student management consultancy and numerous start-up events. The focus is on professional and targeted coaching, further training and support programs for companies and start-ups. With our own company builder, consisting of various incubators and accelerators, we give entrepreneurial projects the necessary boost.