



Chrysella Lagaria, Greece
Co-founder of Blacklight and Life Skills programme
grantee

Women's Entrepreneurship Day

I'm the co-founder of **Blacklight** which is a social cooperative enterprise with a mission to improve the daily lives of people with visual impairments and act as a major stakeholder in their work integration. To accomplish this, Black Light acts as a bridge between people who can see and visually impaired people. We offer multidimensional B2B education services with the aim of bringing businesses closer to a category of consumers who are practically excluded from the retail trade and enhancing skills and awareness regarding blindness.

I've been lucky to receive a grant from the British Council's Life Skills - Creating alternative pathways for the unemployed youth programme. The British Council has given me the opportunity to work with young people who are inspired by the values and principles of the social economy, to make them common in our vision and to be able to use their knowledge and talents to develop the business together while seeing entrepreneurship from their own fresh perspective.

The one thing I'm most proud of from my entrepreneurial journey is the people I meet every day - since day one of this journey. People who influence and are influenced by others help make our world a little better than the one we found.

As a blind woman, I always aim to prioritize the fact that we (still) live within layered inequalities. Therefore, being also a female entrepreneur gives me the ability to influence the way women are treated in the workplace.

Through this process, a great incentive is given to all women entrepreneurs to be independent and to cultivate their leadership skills, also channelling their own culture and way of thinking into the companies they run.