

UK IBL Accelerator Business Launch Pad Pilot

The IBL project aims to develop interventions that can help disadvantaged entrepreneurs in microbusinesses grow and enhance their ability to innovate, expand, and export opportunities across the EU and beyond. As part of this, the Consultancy Academy Limited recently piloted the Accelerator Business Launch Pad Training through a 2-day face-to-face programme held over the course of 2 weeks in Doncaster, UK.

The sessions gave participants the opportunity to reflect on their businesses and work with other entrepreneurs. Between sessions, participants were encouraged to reflect on their learning by working through a handbook and by building their own 'Strategic Spider' which were then presented and discussed in session 2.



A total of 11 people attended the sessions and gave very positive feedback in evaluations. Participants particularly appreciated the opportunity to gain an external perspective on their business and to network with others facing similar struggles. Tools like the 'Strategic Spider' also proved popular, providing a quick and simple way to build a business strategy.

UK IBL Inclusive Business Launch Pad Circles Pilot

In addition to the Accelerator Business Launch Pad, the IBL project has also developed the Inclusive Business Launch Pad Circles™ which were piloted in the UK by Inova Consultancy. A total of 5 people took part in the Circle which took place online. The Circles involved working in a small group over the course of 3 sessions to set SMART goals and develop their soft-skills. Participants had the opportunity to complete a soft skills self-assessment, learn about the Reticular Activating System and how this can affect their thinking, and to develop their own action plans and SMART goals. The Circles aimed to offer a safe and supportive environment to share, reflect and learn, and participants gave very positive feedback within the evaluations. Participants felt that the Circles helped them refocus on their goals and priorities and enjoyed the opportunity to network and discuss ideas with other small-business owners. This positive feedback is reflected in the testimonials below:

“The circles programme has been extremely worthwhile in helping me find a focus and determine which direction and next step to take. I was feeling overwhelmed with the variety of tasks I need to do in my business, but I have been able to narrow it down and figure out the next step.”

“The whole project added value to my business”

“I have thoroughly enjoyed this two day course. I have found it informative. I really enjoyed day 2. The interactive group sessions were thoroughly helpful to my business. I have found all the content extremely useful. Porter's value chain, spider, Boston Matrix etc will all contribute to me getting to where I want to get. My business has great potential and this course is the catalyst for me to achieve my goals.”

“I really enjoyed all the aspects of this course. It's really helpful to think about how to take my business to the next level.”

“Thoroughly enjoyed circles. Will help me to develop not only my existing business but also in developing my new business. Got my focus back. Feeling positive.”

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