

**LEGAL  
REPRESENTATIVE**

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<b>POSITION IN ORGANIZATION</b>	Co-Founder & Executive Director
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**CONTACT  
PERSON**

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<b>GENDER</b>	Female
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ORGANIZATION	DETAILS
<b>FULL NAME</b>	Social Hackers Academy
<b>FULL LEGAL NAME (ENGLISH)</b>	Social Hacker
<b>ACRONYM</b>	S.H.A
<b>ADDRESS</b>	Anaxagora 3-5
<b>CITY</b>	Athens
<b>COUNTRY</b>	Greece
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PROFILE	
<b>TYPE OF ORGANIZATION</b>	NGO/ Social Enterprise
<b>IS THE PARTNER ORGANIZATION A PUBLIC BODY?</b>	No
<b>IS THE PARTNER ORGANIZATION A NON-PROFIT?</b>	Yes

## Background & Experience:

Social Hackers Academy is a Non-for-Profit Organization, established in Athens, Greece, in 2017. At Social Hackers Academy (SHA), we aim to integrate people that belong to social vulnerable groups (refugees/ migrants/ unaccompanied minors/ unemployed) in the society. We achieve our mission by educating these people, through training seminars and workshops, in digital skills, with the support of tech professionals, in the positions of teachers. Given the digital transformation, people that remain digital illiterate, are facing the risk of remaining unemployed and excluded from activities of their community. Hence, through educational programs, we can empower them to integrate in society, by getting job placements in Greece and abroad. Our goals through this program is to eliminate Digital Illiteracy and to enable our students to integrate in the society, through Job Placements in the ICT Sector.

SHA is an accredited NGO to apply for grants under the EU. We have applied for several KA1 Projects, as coordinator/applicant and as partners, in a consortium of min. 7 countries. We are partners of 2 Approved KA2 Projects, called: **MIGRACODE: Acceleration of labour market integration of third country nationals through digital competencies**, where we expand a network of Coding Schools around Europe, through capacity building & empowering activities to local NGOs, in these cities. We have also been approved and participated in EVS/ESCs Program, hosting long-term volunteers, for the period 2018-2022.

SHA team has acquired expertise and experience in the design and implementation (at the same time) of educational programs, with the aim of teaching digital skills and absorbing students from partnering organizations and companies by enhancing their soft skills and interconnection with employers. SHA is also part of the European **"Hack Your Future"** school network of self-focused, offering know-how, advice and exchange of good practices for continuous improvement of processes. Also, the experience of the program teachers and the team of 27 volunteers who assist in administrative positions, in the management of educational material and in training in skills, offering knowledge and a network of human models to empower the beneficiaries of the proposed project.

**Please briefly present your organisation (e.g. its type, size, scope of work, areas of specific expertise, specific social context and, and, if relevant, the quality system used)**

We are **Social Hackers Academy**, a registered Greek Non-Profit Organisation, established in Athens, in 2017. Our mission is to educate, integrate and find employment for people from vulnerable groups including refugees, long-term unemployed citizens, and people with disabilities. Their constant incoming flows of refugees/migrants in Greece have increased the need for sustainable solutions in order to rebuild their lives in the host country. We chose education as a tool to achieve our mission, as it provides the tools for anyone to develop their potential. And more specifically, IT Education, as it can give to them the competitive advantage to find their place in the job market, given the rise of digital transformation. We also aim to solve the unemployment crisis in Greece in both refugees (24.9% unemployment) and Greeks (23.7% unemployment).

In order to enter the job market, we connect them with employment providers, to have their CVs reviewed. We do that by developing their soft skills (CV/Linked-In/Project Management/Communication Skills/Team spirit) and at the same time running monthly or bi-monthly events with tech companies, bringing in touch tech professionals with our students/graduates to interact and expand their network.

We are a team of 10 members/per year, paid and non-paid from Greece and abroad! We embrace a multicultural way of working as we believe that the outputs can be increased, when people from different backgrounds and sociocultural contexts come together and collaborate. The area of expertise of SHA, is:

- ◇ Designing & delivering market-needed IT Educational Curricula
  - ◇ Enhancing employability, through soft skills training and career counselling sessions
  - ◇ Establishing relationships with tech companies, to open employment opportunities
  - ◇ Organizing and running career days/events with tech companies
  - ◇ Doing capacity building activities to NGOs, to expand our educational model, serving more
  - ◇ Build web applications/websites, from our students, being coordinated from developers
  - ◇ Connecting our students with roles models from the tech industry; through mentoring
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***What are the activities and experience of your organisation in the areas relevant for this application? (It changes for each application)***

At Social Hackers Academy, we deliver classes delivered by professional developers, as teachers, providing all-day support to them, through an online messaging platform where all of our students and teachers can share knowledge (Slack). By providing round the clock support to the students we believe that not only can we give them a very high level of education we can also accommodate them in working at their own pace and in the environment they feel most comfortable working in. All of our services are provided completely free of charge to all beneficiaries and all students receive a laptop when they are accepted on to the course. Upon students' graduation, we aim to secure them a job at a Greek technology company in either an internship or junior position depending on the student's skills. Except of the school, we are also involved in projects supporting other NGO's in the region in providing advice in terms of computer literacy and general advice around how to best enable refugee communities through technology.

To achieve these goals we hold a community of volunteers that work with distinct sets. First we have intelligent, engaging programmers to deliver the content of our lessons to our students as we believe that the best teachers are people who use these tools every day in professional contexts and it is through the commitment and skill of our volunteer teachers that we have been able to achieve as much as we already have. Secondly, we have a team of sociable, self-motivated people to reach out to NGOs and businesses in Greece in order to find the resources that we need to conduct our work.

These include:-

- ◇ Beneficiaries. Finding the best students for our classes.
- ◇ Laptops. Finding a laptop that is good enough for each of our students
- ◇ Work Placements. Finding work placements with interesting companies when our students graduate from the course.

At Social Hackers we believe that by giving people the tools they need to improve their own lives we can permanently solve the problems of unemployment and integration in a modern Greek society.

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## ***What are the skills and expertise of key staff/persons involved in this application?***

◇ **Damianos Vavanos** is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Social Hackers Academy. Damianos' background is in Digital Marketing and Operations. He has also studied Computer Science in the UK and he invests a lot in educating himself in Fundraising, Digital Tools and ways to automate organization's operations. He's worked in different NGOs and recently he was working with Solidarity Mission as a Digital Marketing Consultant. He has delivered numerous trainings on new members and volunteers in the Organization and a 40-hour Incubator Program about Social Enterprise, in Athens. He has consulted many people in enhancing their own businesses and products they offer. Damianos is a passionate Social Entrepreneur and he holds his Blog in Huffington Post, writing about it. He sees Social Hackers Academy and its entrepreneurial mindset, as a platform that young leaders will unlock their potential and will discover their purpose in life.

◇ **Aggelina Mila**, as a student, was member in AIESEC (world's largest non-profit youth-run organization, providing young people with leadership development) where she was an active member for 3 years. Through administrative positions, she developed her organizing and communication skills, learned how to plan and execute strategies, while empowering others towards the achievement of goals. She has been invited as a speaker in several events, aiming to motivate young students and individuals to embrace opportunities around them in order to unlock their mind and their potential, always giving back to the society. For Aggelina, cooperating with others for a bigger purpose and running project in order to improve society's less developed parts, made her realize that ideals like positive impact quality education and unleashing youth's potential inspire her. With an academic background in Education, combined with Business courses along with the skills and experiences she has acquired through working in multicultural settings, she now manages Social Hackers Academy's activities and staff/volunteers. She is coordinating educational programs planning and execution, she is overall responsible of SHA's collaboration with other organizations and organization's financial management.

◇ **Abdalrahman Hamami's** role is to oversee the curriculum and manage the education cycle of the students. He makes sure the students complete their assignments/homework and he is available 24/7 for questions.

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AbdalRahman is a graduate of this program himself (he is Syrian) and has worked as a Full Stack Web Developer. His passion though is teaching people new web technologies and assisting potential developers to pursue a career in web development. In each application, our European Solidarity Corps Volunteers are participating, as they are involved in organization's activities. You can learn more about our team [here](#)

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**Has the partner organisation participated in a European Union granted project in the 12 months preceding this application? If yes, please specify:**

Yes

EU PROGRAMME	YEAR	PROJECT IDENTIFICATION/ CONTRACT NUMBER	APPLICANT/BENEFICIARY NAME
Erasmus+ KA2: Strategic Partnerships in the field of Youth (Exchange of Good Case Practices)	2019	2018-3-ES02-KA205-012299	Open Cultural Center
European Solidarity Corps	2018-19	2018-2-EL02-KA125-004440)	Solidarity Mission
European Solidarity Corps	2019-20	2019-2-EL02-ESC11-005131	Borders Nonce
Erasmus+ KA2: Strategic Partnerships in the field of Youth (Exchange of Good Case Practices)	2019	2019-3-HR01-KA205-077039	Social Hackers Academy
European Solidarity Corps – Volunteering Activities	2020	2019-3-EL02-ESC11-005238	Social Hackers Academy
Erasmus+ KA2: Strategic Partnerships in the field of Youth	2020	2020-1-EL02-KA205-005631	Social Hackers Academy
European Solidarity Corps – Solidarity Projects	2020	2020-1-EL02-ESC31-005612	Social Hackers Academy
European Solidarity Corps – Solidarity Projects	2020	2020-1-EL02-ESC31-005613	Social Hackers Academy
European Solidarity Corps – Solidarity Projects	2020	2020-1-EL02-ESC31-005614	Social Hackers Academy