

# Project fact sheet



## The Trailblazer Programme: Skills Development and Social Entrepreneurship for High School and Post-Secondary Youth

<b>Implementing organisation(s)</b>	enke: Make Your Mark; Operation HOPE South Africa
<b>Duration</b>	1 January 2017 – 31 December 2019
<b>Project budget</b>	Total budget: € 527,987.72 EU contribution: € 360,000.00
<b>Location</b>	N/A
<b>Keywords</b>	Youth, youth leadership
<b>Contract number</b>	CSO-LA/2016/378-974



### Project Description

Many young people in South Africa leave the formal education system not having been adequately equipped with the skills and capacity to engage with socio-economic activities, nor the ability / inclination to be active and engaged citizens that can positively shape their own future and that of their communities. The result is a large number of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) which in turn leads to greater ills and risks for South Africa.

Our intervention promotes active citizenship, social entrepreneurship and innovation through accessible training and support for youth in school (The Trailblazer Program) and post-school (The Ignition Program). The project aims to:

1. **Mobilise and engage young people to take action on issues that affect their lives:** provide youth 15-25 years old with training, inspiration and support to identify and act on socio-economic issues within their contexts, thereby practicing active citizenship.

2. **Increase the chances of success of young people in the labour market:** accomplished by increasing the non-cognitive and essential life skills of youth, which research shows contributes to increasing the likelihood of success beyond school by enabling youth to identify and access post-school opportunities.

The overall desired impact of the project is for young people to be active citizens that have the skills and capacity to engage with socio-economic activities and have a sense of self-worth, purpose, awareness and social responsibility, which will enable them to actively contribute to more inclusive and sustainable growth.

### Methodology

The project action involves the implementation of two interventions for youth from the Free State, Limpopo, and Northern Cape provinces:

- **The enke: Trailblazer Program:** a 6- or 9-month social action program for Grade 10-11 high school learners (ages 15-19 years old). The Program inspires, trains and supports high school learners by building leadership capabilities and non-cognitive skills through a week-long 'camp' (enke: Forum) combined with support as they implement their own self-designed and run social impact projects that are implemented in their communities over the program period. Enke provides coaching, mentorship and technical support during the project incubation process.
- **The enke: Ignition Program:** a volunteer program for tertiary students and recent graduates (18-25 years old), where they are trained in youth facilitation, coaching and project management skills, that they go on to apply as part of the support of the Trailblazer Program and trainers at the enke: Forum. During that week they are responsible for the learning and discipline of the high school youth entering the Trailblazer Program. They become role models and support the growth

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of the Trailblazers in all aspects, often continuing on after Forum.

- The youth in both the Trailblazer and Ignition Program will experience Operation HOPE SA's **Banking on Our Future** program to build their financial literacy.

### THE ORGANISATIONS

This is a collaborative effort of two (2) South African youth development organisations - enke: Make Your Mark (Lead Applicant) and Operation HOPE South Africa (Co-applicant).

**enke: Make Your Mark** (enke) is a leadership development organization that generates and incubates youth-led social impact. We run holistic development programmes that pass on the skills and belief systems that enable young people to become the change they seek in the world. Our leadership development programmes provide young people with theoretical and practical skills that make it possible for them to become effective leaders in their communities – people who have the desire and ability to identify and access opportunities for a more positive future. Since 2009 we have worked with over 2,000 young people who have generated over 600 social impact projects that have resulted in positive changes for over 40,000 people in communities all over South Africa.

**Operation HOPE South Africa** (HOPE SA) is part of Operation HOPE Global, the leading global provider of financial dignity education and economic empowerment programs for low- or moderate-income youth, individuals and families in underserved communities. HOPE South Africa has two Youth Empowerment Programs that focus on learners in High Schools – Banking On Our Future and HOPE Business in a Box. Through these interventions, HOPE's goal is to have young

people change the conversations they have about money and finances, and encourage the entrepreneurship potential in each participant to work towards a dignified life and career.



Contact	<p>Rufaro Mudimu</p> <p>Tel: +27 (0)11 403 1241 +27 (0)83 362 6789</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:partnership@enke.co.za">partnership@enke.co.za</a> / <a href="mailto:Rufaro@enke.co.za">Rufaro@enke.co.za</a></p>
Website & social media	<p><u>Websites</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="http://www.enke.co.za">www.enke.co.za</a></li><li>• <a href="http://www.operationhope.org/southafrica">www.operationhope.org/southafrica</a></li></ul> <p><u>Facebook</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enkecoza</li><li>• OperationHOPESouthAfrica</li></ul> <p><u>Twitter</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• @enkeMYM</li><li>• @OperationHOPESA</li></ul> <p><u>Instagram</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• enkeMYM</li><li>• operationhopesa</li></ul>