

## 54 NGOs receive 250,000 euros in grants to go digital thanks to Santander Social Tech

- Banco Santander and its Foundation promote this program, which in its third edition allows 54 NGOs throughout Spain to benefit from grants of more than 250,000 euros to overcome the challenge of digitization.
- In three years, this program has helped 380 third sector organizations, provided 160 grants, held 38 workshops, and advised 128 people with an investment of close to one million euros.
- The IV edition of Santander Social Tech is already underway, in which 144 NGOs will be able to participate through 12 online workshops and grants of up to 5,000 euros to improve their digitalization.

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A total of 144 NGOs from all over Spain will be able to take part in the fourth edition of **Santander Social Tech**, a program promoted by Santander through its Foundation to support the digitalization of the third sector at a time of social and technological transformation accelerated by the pandemic.

Applications can be submitted until March 3 through this [link](#) and the selected NGOs will be able to participate in 12 online workshops between April and November, in addition to a subsequent consulting process and qualify for financial aid of up to 5,000 euros to improve their digitization.

Furthermore, the 54 winning organizations of the III Call for Santander Social Tech Grants are already confirmed. They will receive grants worth 252,504 euros to help overcome the digital divide that many associations and third sector entities are still going through after the pandemic crisis. This marks the end of the third edition of Santander Social Tech, in which 14 workshops have been held with 149 NGOs trained and 81 advised.

According to **Borja Baselga**, director of **Fundación Banco Santander**, *"it is a matter of continuing to support the third social action sector, which has been severely affected by the crisis generated by the pandemic, and which in turn has more issues to deal with and fewer resources"*. Moreover, with the launch of the IV edition of Santander Social Tech, *"we want to continue to encourage organizations towards digitalization so that they can take advantage of the opportunities offered by this transformation and improve the impact and efficiency of their actions in society."*

In the words of **Maika Saénz**, **Project Manager at Fundación Fransol**, *"Thanks to our participation in training and consulting services provided by Santander Social Tech, we have made a great qualitative leap in our organization. Now, says Maika "we know and work with new digital tools that allow us to become more visible and attract new sponsors and companies that want to support us"*.

According to **Pilar Reifs**, **Head of Fundraising for the Asociación Candelita**, *"the financial support received after participating in the training phase of the program has been a turning point for our organization"*. Thanks to the contribution of Fundación Banco Santander, Pilar adds, *"We have been able to implement a CRM, which makes our day-to-day internal management much easier, and, this way we can focus more on customer service, which is our raison d'être"*.

Santander Social Tech is an accompaniment program consisting of three phases:

- **Santander Social Tech Workshops:** offering online training to acquire the digital skills and competencies needed to improve their communication, fundraising and internal management.
- **Santander Social Tech Consulting:** After completing the training, interested organizations receive a personalized online advisory service for two months to advance in their digitization.
- **Santander Social Tech Grants:** NGOs participating in the Santander Social Tech Workshops (phase 1) will be eligible for financial aid of up to 5,000 euros to boost their digitalization.

In the three years of the Santander Social Tech program, a total of 38 workshops have been held and more than 500 people from 380 organizations have participated in the training sessions, not to mention the advisory work provided to 128 organizations and the 160 monetary grants for digitalization.

#### About Fundación Banco Santander

Fundación Banco Santander strives to contribute to the construction of a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable society. To this end, it develops initiatives grouped into three lines of action: the promotion of culture as a tool to understand the world around us, social action to facilitate the progress of vulnerable groups and environmental care to protect the natural heritage. In all its programs, the Foundation strives to create collaborative networks with the third sector to face together the main global challenges.