

Fostering Entrepreneurship among young people through education: a EU perspective

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Definition of Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship refers to an individual's ability to turn ideas into action.

It includes

- ***creativity,***
- ***innovation and***
- ***risk taking,***
- ***as well as the ability to plan and manage projects in order to achieve objectives.***

This

- ***supports everyone in day-to-day life at home and in society,***
- ***makes employees more aware of the context of their work and better able to seize opportunities,***
- ***and provides a foundation for entrepreneurs establishing a social or commercial activity***

(2006 Recommendation on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning)

Policy Background

- **Recommendation** of the European Parliament and the Council (2006): entrepreneurship a key competence for all.
- **Commission Communication** on “Fostering entrepreneurial mindsets” (2006)
- **Oslo Agenda** on Entrepreneurship Education in Europe (2007): a detailed menu of actions
- **Small Business Act** for Europe (2008)
- **EU 2020 strategy**: focus school curricula on creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship (2010)

Current State (1)

Mainly **individual initiatives**, with no coherent framework and little impact

Most students **do not have access** to entrepreneurship courses and programmes.

Entrepreneurship is included in the **national curriculum** of general secondary school only in a small minority of countries

In **Higher Education** the majority of entrepreneurship courses are offered in business and economic studies

Only **1/4** of specialized and **1/3** of multidisciplinary institutions without a business school offer entrepreneurship

Current State (2)

Actions at EU and national level made it possible to build consensus on the importance of entrepreneurship education and on its objectives, and to boost activities and programmes.

Efforts focus currently on increasing European coordination so as to develop more systematic strategies.

Present goals:

- 1) Increase the exchange of experiences and practices across Europe, particularly about policy development.
- 2) Promote European projects that will become a model or a reference for the multiplication and dissemination of activities in this field.

High Level Reflection Panels on Entrepreneurship Education

Two key needs:

- 1) Increase co-operation between government administrations – especially those responsible for education and enterprise - and with stakeholders on entrepreneurship education;
- 2) Develop more systematic strategies for entrepreneurship education.

High Level Reflection Panels

1° Panel (London, 16-17 March 09): **Belgium, France, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Ireland, UK, Iceland.**

2° Panel (Stockholm, 23-24 April 09): **Denmark, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden.**

3° Panel (Prague, 25-26 June 09): **Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland.**

4° Panel (Rome, 15-16 October 09): **Bulgaria, Spain, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Romania and Slovenia.**

5° Panel (Zagreb, 18-19 March 2010): countries of **pre-accession** and **Southern Neighborhood** region.

Outcomes

- Current state of play: especially the development of strategies and their implementation
- A framework for strategy building, using a progression model.
- A 'cook book' of good practices which show how to address key areas within the progression model
- Recommendations for action at EU level to support developments within Member States.

Elements of a strategy (1)

- Agreed definition of entrepreneurship
- Cross-ministry cooperation
- Stakeholder consultation
- Embed core competences into the national curriculum
- Develop strategic aims and objectives

Elements of a strategy (2)

- Integrate identified good practices (what works) into the strategy
- Train the teachers
- Develop a logic chain of indicators, outputs, outcomes and expected impact
- Design and embed coherent progression from primary to higher education
- Make resources available for the strategy

Some good examples

- **Finland and Norway**: the entrepreneurship strategy was jointly developed by different ministries
- **Netherlands and UK**: government funded pilot projects in schools, then disseminated resulting good practice
- **Luxembourg**: the programme for all primary schools has a section on starting up a business based on a cartoon
- **Spain**: in Asturias, secondary school students run import-export mini-companies as part of the regional curriculum

Key Issues (1)

- High importance of involving teachers (→ maintain a broad definition of Entrepreneurship)
 - Shift from 'how to run a business' to how to develop a general set of competences applicable in all walks of life
- Key elements for supporting the role of teachers:
 - Develop research on how teachers approach E.E.
 - Offer initial and continuous teacher training
 - Create and disseminate teaching contents, tools, methods and materials
 - Make space in the curriculum for testing new methods
 - Establish support networks

Key Issues (2)

- Make entrepreneurship an integral part of the Curriculum:
 - Key role for ministries of education
 - Changes in teaching methods: experiential learning, teacher as a facilitator, coach, moderator
 - Changes in education context: take students out of the classroom (into local community and real businesses)
 - Combine a mandatory cross-curricular approach with a selectable training as a specific subject

Key Issues (3)

- Engage businesses:
 - Visits, experiences, case studies and role models
 - Student mini-companies with business mentors
- Engage intermediary organizations:
 - Many NGOs play already a key role
 - External organizations devoted to promoting E.E. can be effectively associated with national strategies
- Link E.E. into local and regional strategies
 - Develop partnerships
 - Build local and regional support centres

Role for the EU

- Push and accelerate policy development in the MS
- Act as a catalyst: observatory and hub for research
- Build a platform for the exchange of information, teaching methods and good practices
- Support training of teachers, and the development and dissemination of didactic material
- Provide funding for specific projects (through LLP, ESF, etc.)

EU funded projects

Call for proposals: Entrepreneurial culture of young people, and entrepreneurship education

Aim: to support the implementation of the Small Business Act (Principle 1) and of the Oslo Agenda for Entrepreneurship Education in Europe .

Objective: to promote winning ideas in the field of education for entrepreneurship and in improving the entrepreneurial mindsets of the European youth.

Number of selected projects : 9

Starting date: December 2009

Thematic areas

- Establish a European summer academy for entrepreneurship professors in higher education
- Develop practice-based teaching material on entrepreneurship, in particular by using real cases.
- Foster entrepreneurship among female university graduates
- Foster the entrepreneurial mindsets of young people outside the educational environment (e.g. competitions, awards, promotional campaigns, etc.)

Contacts



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