

EDITORIAL

By Maja Krušič Šega

Introducing Entrepreneurial Culture through the Educational System

Integrating entrepreneurial culture into the educational system is a contemporary challenge for countries all over the world. The Youth Start project with its learning programme offers embedded entrepreneurial education. It requires trainers, researchers and educational professionals to empower entrepreneurship in schools at the primary and secondary levels. The rigorous research protocol evaluates the development of essential entrepreneurial mindsets and skillsets in students. In the first year of implementation more than 130 primary and secondary schools participated in Slovenia, Austria, Luxembourg and Portugal.



Picture: Maja Krušič Šega

Training and evaluation

International teacher training has been key to unified quality standards within the programme across the implementation countries. Interactive workshops bring new contemporary pedagogical approaches, aimed at familiarizing teachers with different aspects of the entrepreneurial competence. The reference framework for the project was developed in the Thematic Working Group on Entrepreneurship Education (2012-2014). In Slovenia, an evaluation workshop was added after training, which offers teachers guidance and support on strategic planning of the broader integration of the competence into schools.

School Directors have been very important for a successful integration and Leadership Forums have been developed which provide special training, counselling and opportunities for peer learning. When introducing new approaches and programmes, school management offer key support and encouragement to teachers.

First implementation and its outcomes

The training was followed by Implementation I in schools, where more than 3,342 students of primary schools and 5,629 students of secondary schools were involved. In the first year we

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exceeded our expectations, with positive effects and outcomes including:

- The introduction of entrepreneurial skills into a number of different school subjects;
- Adherence to a rigorous evaluation protocol which has already demonstrated several desired effects;
- Dissemination of good practices within schools to other colleagues;
- Peer learning exchange of good practice examples at the international level;
- Video materials on the implementation process and concepts.

After the first year, the teachers in all of the countries involved showed a high level of motivation, and many have changed their teaching approach. Moreover, students were provided with practical experience and were equipped to proactively seek opportunities, think critically and pursue self-directed careers.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

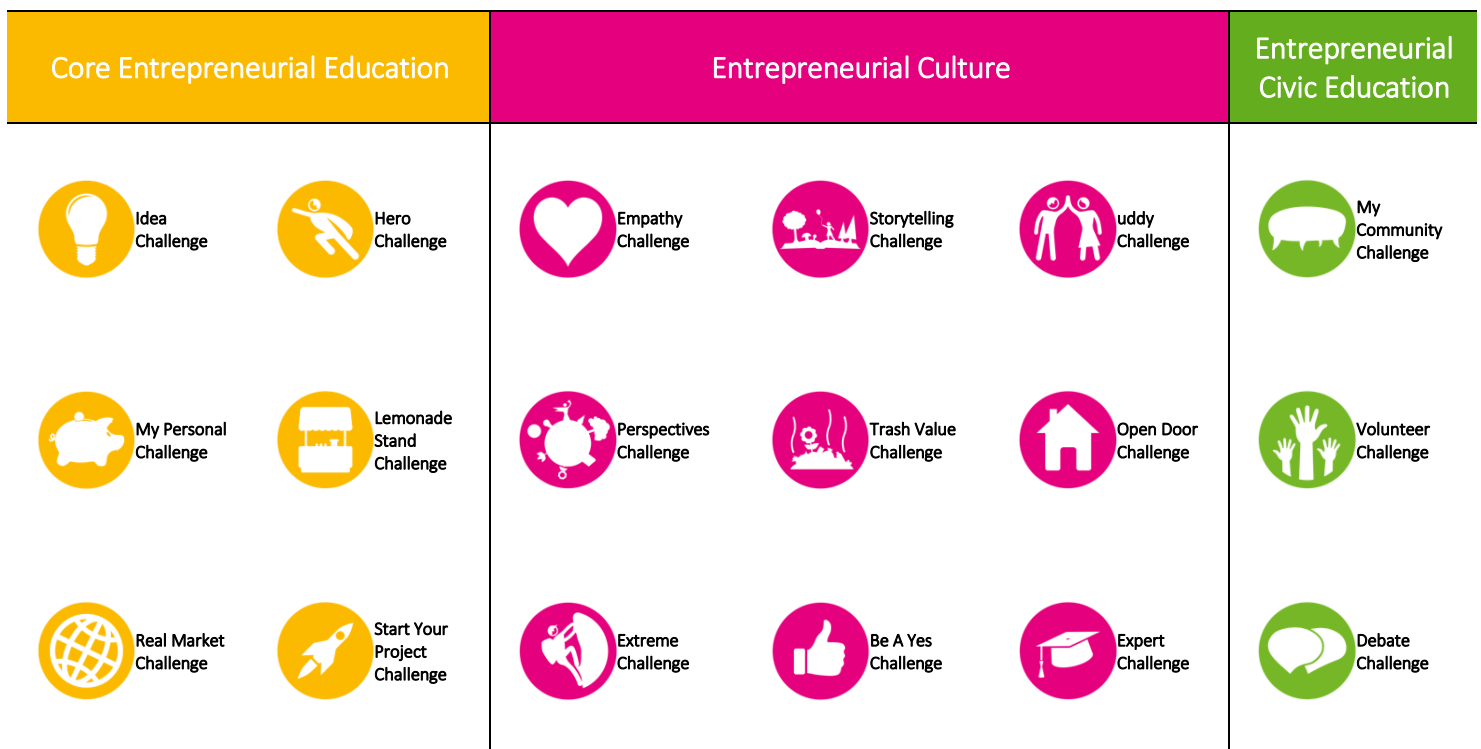
The Youth Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges educational programme is designed to increase the students' desire and ability to participate in entrepreneurial activities. We believe that it is through education that we can create a sustainable culture of entrepreneurship, changing the mindset of our students, parents and school communities. Through this project we are testing the idea that this experiential programme will increase the participants' motivation to learn and engage in school activities and also help develop their pro-activeness, creative thinking and a risk-taking attitude that will allow them to be more participative citizens and develop their full potential.

The Youth Start Entrepreneurial Challenges Programme.

The Youth Start Entrepreneurial Challenges Programme has been newly developed as part of the project and comprises shorter and longer challenges for 18 different themes (Challenge Families), based on the "TRIO Model for Entrepreneurship" and offers challenges in 3 areas: basic tasks to promote entrepreneurial thinking, tasks to promote a culture of co-operation and tasks to increase awareness for citizenship and social responsibility. It helps students develop the entrepreneurial competences listed in the "reference framework" and includes check lists for self- and peer-assessment; It has a modular

structure and can be used for different grades in various subjects and school types. Following a holistic concept, it also provides descriptions and instructive video clips for physical exercises and meditation techniques in addition to teaching material for teachers and students. It is currently being used at primary schools, new secondary schools, secondary business and business administration schools as well as secondary schools for tourist professions and artistic professions; it will soon also be used at vocational colleges, polytechnic schools and technical secondary schools.

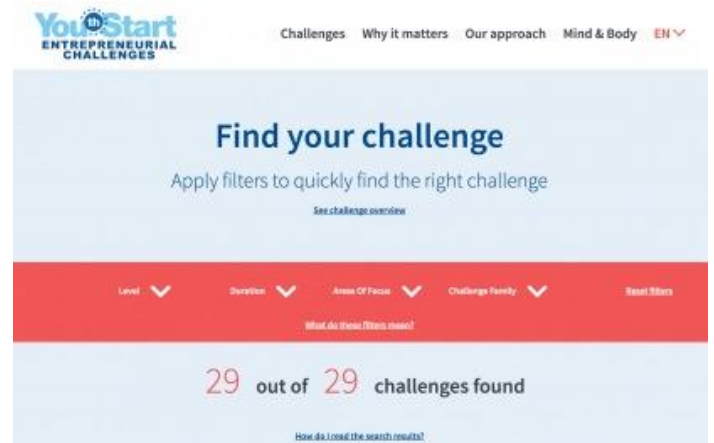
Abridged and adapted from: <http://www.youthstart.eu/en/about/>



The Youth Start Entrepreneurial Challenges Upcoming Site

If you want to get something done, “Join me!” is a better motivation for others than “Get started!”. Success in entrepreneurship does not come automatically but requires partners for its implementation.

The Youth Start Entrepreneurial Challenges Programme offers a chance at educating a young crowd of entrepreneurs. Join us! Find out more in the new site of the programme: <http://www.youthstart.eu/>



PROJECT NEWS

The Youth Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges Project has just started its Implementation Phase II (2016/2017 school year). The revised challenges were already translated; the teacher training has already started in some countries and the pre-test of the research was collected during October in all four implementing countries.

During October, the project had its 3rd Research Team Meeting and the 5th Coordinating Team Meeting, both held in Lisbon,

Dissemination continues through conference presentations and other media. In August, there were two presentations in Eindhoven (Netherlands) at the Association for Teacher Education (ATEE) Annual Conference.

The 7th of November at the House of Entrepreneurship in Luxembourg will be a press conference presenting the joint project of the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth and the Ministry of Economy which consists in promoting entrepreneurial schools by integrating entrepreneurial content (mostly challenges based on the Youth Start model) in Luxembourgish secondary schools at two levels.

[ATEE Conference, Eindhoven 22-24 August](#)

Research Team Meeting III in Lisbon, Portugal



See the pictures of Project Events in <http://www.youthstartproject.eu/#!events/fd21h>.

Youth Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges’ Newsletter

MULTIMEDIA

Youth Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges Consortium





All public authorities from participating countries with experimental actions are at the Ministerial level and responsible for Education. These partners, act as the highest authorities in education, and will enable the experimentation in the targeted school levels. We provide a brief summary of the Consortium of Youth Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges Project through this video produced by PEEP Portugal.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Name	Date	Venue
European Week of Regions and Cities	October 12	Brussels
Research Team Meeting III	October 18 - 19	Lisbon
Coordinating Team Meeting V	October 19 - 21	Lisbon
Press Conference at the House of Entrepreneurship	November 7	Luxembourg
Leadership conference for directors for primary schools	November 7-8	Slovenia
Global Education Conference – Online Conference	November 13-16	Online
RENT Conference	November 16-18	Antwerp
Leadership conference for directors for secondary schools	November 21-22	Slovenia
Citizenship Education Conference	November 9 - 23	Seixal
Entrepreneurship Summit Schwarzenbergplatz 4	November 24	Vienna
EAPRIL Conference 2016	November 22-25	Porto
Final Conference of the Project Empowering Youth Potential	November 28-29	Porto

PROJECT PARTNERS



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de l'Éducation nationale,
de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse
Service de coordination de la recherche
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Project Title	Youth Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges
Project Acronym	Ustart
Programme	Erasmus +
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Key Action	Key Action 3: Support for policy reform
Policy Area	Education and Training & Youth
International Coordinator	Dana T. Redford, Phd

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DISCLAIMER

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