

EDITORIAL

By Kåre Moberg

Evaluating the effects of a flexible and challenge based entrepreneurship programme

A central component of the Youth Start Entrepreneurial Challenges project is assessing its impact on students. We want to understand how different versions of the programme influence different students, in different national contexts, in different schools, at different levels and with different teachers. There certainly are a lot of differences to consider in this project. So, is it at all possible to perform this type of policy experimentation? Well, with a rigorous experimentation protocol and randomization you come a long way. By randomizing which students get the educational programme and which students are in the control group, we make sure that factors that might influence the impact of the educational programme have the same probability of occurring in both groups.



This randomization is absolutely essential, but it requires a lot of effort, especially from the stakeholders. Since both primary schools and secondary schools are included in this project, and due to the fact that we follow many

students over more than one grade level, there are a lot of stakeholders involved in this project. We use an in-phase randomization method which means that all participating schools eventually will implement the programme, but at different times. Although we measure many variables which many different educational approaches could influence, I understand that it is not always motivating to be in the control group, both for the teachers who do not get to implement the challenges as well as the students who do not receive the training. Still, making them understand how important they are to the field experiment is crucial.

Denmark (where the evaluation body is located) is not implementing the programme nationally, but even so, my colleagues and I feel that we are very close to the empirical data. This is undeniably due to

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the close contact we have with the national researchers in each participating country. These hard-working data collectors, coordinators, motivators and local contacts are key to any field experiment, but they often end up as unsung heroes. Being the one responsible for the strenuous research design we have applied in this field trial I would therefore like to take the opportunity to offer my gratitude to all of the hard-working national researchers who keep all of this project's many stakeholders motivated, and who guarantee the high levels of response rate we have experienced in the pre- and the mid-tests as well as in the post tests. Thank you: Branko Slivar, Eddy Madimba, Laurent Mayer, Petra Zaloznik, Sérgio Leal, Susanne Hueber, Susanne Spangle, and Tom Muller.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The Youth Start Entrepreneurial Challenges learning programme comprises shorter and longer challenges for 18 different themes (Challenge Families). According to the TRIO Model for Entrepreneurship, Challenge Families are divided in three areas: Core Entrepreneurial Education (basic tasks to promote entrepreneurial thinking), Entrepreneurial Culture (tasks to promote a culture of co-operation) and Entrepreneurial Civic Education (tasks to increase awareness for citizenship and social responsibility). The challenges are based on the [‘Youth Start – Framework of Reference for Entrepreneurship Competences’](#) and encompass four proficiency levels, from beginner/elementary (A1) to upper-intermediate (B2).

B2 Challenges

B2 challenges are aimed at upper secondary education students who have completed B1 challenges throughout the previous school year. These challenges have been highly praised by the participating students and teachers due to the wide range of themes, activities and situations of entrepreneurship education they provide, with the purpose of encouraging young people to think creatively and turn their ideas into practice.

Core Entrepreneurial Education	 My Personal Challenge B2	The aim of the challenge is to identify one's personal expectations for a vacation and to plan a trip accordingly. Students compile individual travel plans which require them to create a travel budget and to decide on issues such as the means of transport, the accommodation and the leisure activities they foreseen at their destination.
	 Start Your Project B2	The goal of the challenge is to introduce students to the different phases and tools of a project. Students will simultaneously develop, carry out and complete their own project. Possible larger projects include activities such as the organisation of a birthday party or the shooting of a music video.
Entrepreneurial Culture	 Buddy Challenge B2	Students learn how be supportive in two ways: first, they complete a “buddy training” that enables them to supervise and direct physical exercises during class; secondly, they learn how to support their peers in achieving their goals. The challenge enhances motivation and problem-solving.
	 Perspectives Challenge B2	On the basis of a specific case study (a challenging business setting), students formulate economic, ecological and social goals, describe factors of influence in a field analysis, analyse positive and negative interdependencies, and develop likely scenarios for the future. This challenge enhances network thinking and self-awareness.
	 Open Door Challenge B2	The goal of the challenge is to give students the chance to organise and produce an event that matches their own personal interests and special talents. Students learn what it takes to make an event happen: finding ideas, networking, organisation (incl. scheduling and planning resources), marketing and implementation.
	 Extreme Challenge B2	The challenge is all about setting and achieving long-term goals. It opens with a game of sports. Students then write down their personal training goals for the semester and decide on the necessary steps they need to take. The process and its results are evaluated at the end of the semester.
Entrepreneurial Civic Education	 Debate Challenge B2	Students learn how to make democratic decisions in a debate club. Students are challenged to take sides on controversial issues, demonstrate their perception of problems, propose ideas for the resolution of the problems addressed and find arguments to defend their own positions.

Teaching materials for the B2 challenges are available for download at: <http://www.youthstart.eu/en/challenges/?level=B2>



PROJECT NEWS

The Youth Start Entrepreneurial Challenges project has ended the collection of data for the Implementation Phase II (2016/2017 school year). We are now in the process of analyzing the qualitative and quantitative data.

In September, the www.youthstart.eu website will have the challenges videos in all five languages of the project (English, German, French, Portuguese and Slovenian).

Over the past 3 months the project has participated in various events of importance to our work. On May 11th in Brussels, at the [Practice Into Policy Live: Entrepreneurial Learning](#) event, Youth Start Entrepreneurial Challenges was presented as a European good practice. And on May 12th education and employment authorities, organisations, companies and citizens from EU Member States met to discuss specific tools to improve [Digital \(DigComp\) and Entrepreneurial \(EntreComp\)](#) skills through the frameworks developed by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. The project had a networking stand where members of the Consortium explained the project and discussed scaling with potential partners.

In Barcelona on June 12th and 13th the project was presented at the [Innovation Growth Lab Global Conference](#) to showcase and debate the latest trends and cutting-edge ideas in innovation, entrepreneurship and growth policy, and the power of experimentation to transform this space. And on June 21st You Start came together with other project leaders and evaluation bodies in Brussels at the [Cluster meeting for European Policy Experimentation projects](#) in Europe to discuss the way forward in this area.

Innovation Growth Lab Global Conference
(Barcelona)



Innovation Growth Lab Global Conference
(Barcelona)



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

MULTIMEDIA

Start Your Project B2 Challenge



This is one of the videos of the B2 challenges that you can find in [YouthStart TV YouTube channel](#).

The goal of this challenge is to introduce students to the different phases and tools of a project. The students will simultaneously develop, carry out, and complete their own project. Possible larger projects range from activities with unaccompanied minor refugees or the organisation of a birthday party to shooting a music video.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Name	Date	Venue
Dissemination in Greece: Train the Trainer Workshop for Greek multipliers: B1 Challenges	July 4 - 7	Vienna (Austria)
Teacher Training: HAK B1 Challenges	July 10 - 14	Kitzbühel (Austria)
Teacher Training: B2 Challenges	August	Slovenia
Conference on Entrepreneurship Education (CEE'2017)	September 14	Aveiro (Portugal)
Dissemination in Austria: Train the Trainer Workshop for multipliers of city of Vienna: A1 Challenges	September 16	Vienna (Austria)
Teacher Training: HAK B1 Challenges for language teachers	October 2-3	Vienna (Austria)
IV Research Team Meeting	October 10-11	Munich (Germany)
Dissemination in Austria: Train the Trainer Workshop for multipliers of teach for Austria: A2 Challenges	October 17	Vienna (Austria)
Dissemination in Bosnia and Croatia	October	Slovenia
Entrepreneurship workshop with certificate	October	Slovenia

PROJECT PARTNERS



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International Coordinator	Dana T. Redford, PhD

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