

EDITORIAL

By Ilda Figueiredo

The added value of Youthth Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges Project

The Youthth Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges Project proposes a practical experiential learning programme that supports the development of entrepreneurship competences in curricula and promotes innovative learning methods through challenges, with continuity across A1, A2, B1 and B2 levels and formative assessment methods for the core competences. This programme recognises the pertinence of entrepreneurship promotion in compulsory education as a process of training and development for citizens: it results in autonomous students, responsible and committed to their personal and social development.



What is the impact of the project in schools?

In the Portuguese school system, as part of the National Strategy for Citizenship Education, Entrepreneurship is one of the working domains of the Citizenship and Development curricular component within

Citizenship and Development, as an option for each school and each year of schooling.

The implementation of the challenges yields many examples of the positive impact of the Youthth Start programme in schools, reflecting the National Strategy at the class and school levels.

Class level:

- An interdisciplinary approach and a curricular interconnection with other disciplines.
- Collaborative work either between teachers and/or between students.
- The teaching, learning and evaluation process integrates and reflects key cognitive, social and emotional entrepreneurial competences developed and demonstrated by each student.
- The evaluation reflects the impact of pupils' participation in school and community activities.

School level:

- The school as a whole should base its daily practices on the values and principles of citizenship, in order to create an open and free environment for the active discussion of

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decisions that affect the lives of all school community members.

- The methodologies and pedagogical practices adopted at the school should facilitate the application in real experiences and in an appropriate manner to each level of education and teaching.
- Teacher training centred on school priorities, needs and contexts, in articulation with projects and activities.
- The entrepreneurial school culture expressed through the attitudes, values, rules, daily practices, principles and procedures adopted both at the school global level and at the classroom level.
- Articulation between school and community entities through oriented partnerships within economic or social entrepreneurship.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The focus in Austria for the Youth Start Project is on the sustainable embedding of the Youth Start Programme in Austrian schools. There is significant interest from technical schools, which have their own certification system for entrepreneurial schools, once they discovered that the Youth Start Programme provides them with very useful additional teaching materials. So far, Austrian partners have already adapted it 17 times, and in the latest version included an online presence. The materials are published in booklet by a partner of IFTE – the workers chamber. They are ready to send it to schools, asking only for covering transportation costs. The booklet will be presented publicly on May 16, 2018.

Austria has had lots of training in the mindfulness programme, and there are plans to include inspectors and headmasters.

Austrian partners are still developing new challenges for the lower secondary level, to provide their schools with the programme from 3rd to 8th grade. At the moment they are preparing new challenges for the 8th grade, to help children prepare for choosing a profession. There are many students who leave school and start an apprenticeship after completing the 9th grade.

Austrian partners are also glad about the international interest in the Youth Start programme. In November, they held an event in Vienna, where trainers from Spain and Thailand were trained in all challenges.

Last November, there was an international “train the trainer” in Vienna, where partners from the Austria consortium were guests at the pilot school (a new middle school in Vienna - New Middle School Schopenhauerstraße), and children from the school can be seen in the mindfulness videos. Visiting the schools shows the good effects of applied mindfulness in the classroom.

Photos from this visit were taken by Eva Jambor.





Youth Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges Newsletter

PROJECT NEWS

Kåre Moberg, our lead researcher from the evaluation body, had a busy Global Entrepreneurship Week. On the 15th of November, he presented the results of the Round II implementation of Youth Start - Entrepreneurial Challenges for an enthusiastic crowd which included politicians and policy makers as well as teachers and practitioners, at the [Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Vienna](#). On the 17th of November he presented a research paper based on the data collected in the project at the [31st RENT Conference](#) which was held in Lund, Sweden.

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An overview of the project in Portugal will be published in the APPI Journal (Spring Issue) to disseminate the project among teachers of English in Portugal.

[15th Entrepreneurship Summit](#) (Vienna, Austria)

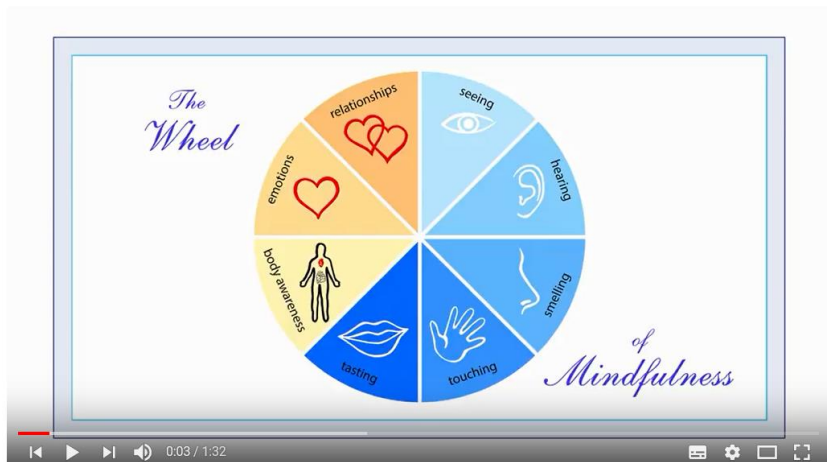
[RENT XXXI Conference](#) (Lund, Sweden)



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

MULTIMEDIA

Beans of Bliss



This is one of the videos of the Youth Start – Mindfulness videos that you can find on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/2DtjHw1>.

Physical activities that combine rhythmic exercises, kinaesthetic learning and focus can help us activate our brain and improve our concentration because these movements challenge our brain and thereby enhance our coordination, our ability to think and our mental fitness.

The videos show short exercises to train your mindfulness that teachers can use in their classroom. Further information can be found at: www.youthstart.eu/en/warmup.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Name	Date	Venue
VII Coordinating Team Meeting	January 24	Brussels
Presenting the Youth Start Project: Policy Experimentation in Education in Europe	January 24	Brussels
Teacher Training: A1, A2, B1 and B2 Challenges	January-March	Austria and Portugal
ATEE Winter Conference 2018	February 15-16	Utrecht (Netherlands)
Trash Value Festival	March 21	Vienna (Austria)

PROJECT PARTNERS



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Policy Area	Education and Training & Youth
International Coordinator	Dana T. Redford, PhD

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